

Heritage

The Magazine of Sam Houston State University



INSIDE

The road ahead for
Science, Engineering
and Technology



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thomas Edison once said, “There’s a better way to do it—find it.” No matter how far innovation and technology may take us, Edison’s words will always remain true. Every great breakthrough is just waiting for a brilliant, inquiring mind to take it even further.



This sentiment was personified in Fred Pirkle, an SHSU alumnus and inventor whose \$25 million gift is changing the landscape of our campus and the futures of our students. If you haven’t seen it yet, the Fred Pirkle Engineering Technology Center is an astonishing, four-level learning environment loaded with cutting edge labs and equipment. Pirkle’s vision was to “inspire the mind,” and he certainly accomplished it.

Nearing completion, the center has also opened new doors to academic program innovations. Quanta Services and the Department of Agricultural Sciences and Engineering Technology have entered into a multi-million-dollar partnership that combines hands-on experience with core engineering technology courses in a very unique and meaningful way.

There is a rich history of innovation at Sam Houston State University and, as evidenced by the pages of this edition of the *Heritage*, that spirit is being carried forward by our students and alumni. From life-saving medical solutions to fan favorites like the foam finger, Bearkat ingenuity helps change the world.

At SHSU, we seek opportunities to “*make things happen.*”

Dana G. Hoyt
President

Heritage

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The goal of *Heritage* is to keep you informed about Sam Houston State University. *Heritage* is published twice a year by the Office of University Advancement for alumni, donors and friends of SHSU. To contact the Office of University Advancement please call 936.294.3625 or visit shsu.edu/giving.

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM



2 Make Things Happen

The vision of alumnus Fred Pirkle and his \$25 million donation have transformed one of SHSU’s seven colleges by providing resources that are redefining learning for its students

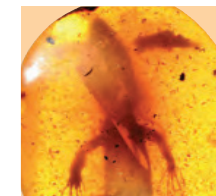


8 ‘Patent’ Problem-Solvers

Bearkats have invented products that have broken ground in their fields

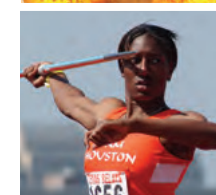


SECTIONS



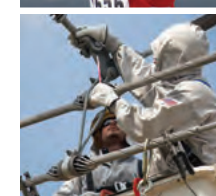
15 University Focus

The work of three SHSU professors receive state, national and international recognition



20 Eye On Kats

Perfect Score
Alumni “Go Pro”



26 Carry The Vision

Multimillion-Dollar Partnership To Train Students For Success



29 Alumni Look

Distinguished Alumni
Where Are They Now
Class Notes

ON THE COVER



Fred Pirkle’s valves changed the skyline of railroad engineering
Page 2.

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MAKE THINGS HAPPEN

SPOTLIGHT



By Amy Barnett

Suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease, alumnus Fred Pirkle realized his days of inventing and problem solving would be coming to an end. In 2011, he made a \$25 million commitment to Sam Houston State University, to date, SHSU's largest donation from a single alumnus.

His gift is now changing the lives of students and faculty and transforming the science and engineering technology programs at SHSU.

Pirkle's vision was to "inspire the mind and get the mind thinking beyond what's expected," said Stanley Kelley, chair of the Department of Agricultural Sciences and Engineering Technology.

His legacy is accomplishing that mission by providing scholarships

Pirkle's vision was to "inspire the mind and get the mind thinking beyond what's expected."

for engineering technology students, supporting faculty enrichment and building a state-of-the-art academic building where science, agriculture, and engineering technology converge, forever changing the landscape of SHSU and paving a future of greater possibilities for SHSU graduates.

'Engineering' a College

Pirkle's pledge played a part in the decision to change the name of SHSU's College of Sciences to the College of Science and Engineering Technology.

"We decided to rename the college to recognize the investment in the engineering technology program from our alumni and corporate sponsors and as a branding exercise," said John Pascarella, dean of the college.

"Without 'engineering technology' in our name, our college often wasn't showing up in Apply Texas, the system that students use when choosing majors and applying for college enrollment in Texas."

Pascarella believes the college's new name and the completion of the Fred

Pirkle Engineering Technology Center will generate deserved attention and make SHSU a top choice for engineering technology students in Texas.

A Center Like No Other

When Pirkle decided \$10 million of his gift would be used to provide a new learning facility at SHSU, Kelley made a trip to Pirkle's Warminster, Pennsylvania, home to visit with him about the design and functionality of the new building.

Having met Pirkle only once before—when Pirkle made his first trip back to SHSU after 35 years to celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of the Department of Agricultural and Industrial Sciences in 2009—Kelley did

not know what to expect; the once-vibrant inventor was now wheelchair bound and growing weak.

"What was remarkable to me was not only his positive attitude but that his mind was still working and he was still trying to develop new patents," Kelley said.

During that two-day visit, Pirkle and Kelley defined a vision that would lead to the construction of a building like no other at SHSU.

The technology-based, four-level learning environment will consist of an innovations lab; electronics and robotics labs; a design and development lab; and an alternative energy/sustainability lab equipped with a wind tunnel.

"Students will be able to take solar panels and wind turbines to the patio and

MILESTONES FOR AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

1909



Under the direction of Harry Estill, president of Sam Houston Normal Institute, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Manual Arts are established.

1910s

\$19,500 is allocated to construct a facility to house the new departments. The building is the fourth permanent structure on campus and is named the Manual Arts Building, but it is more commonly referred to by students as the "Ag Building" or "Administration Building."

1917—U.S. Congress passes the Smith-Hughes Act, which provides continuing federal funding for vocational education and establishes the Vocational Education Board.

1918—Sam Houston Normal Institute is the only college in the United States approved as a Vocational Agriculture and Manual Arts training institute.



Fred Pirkle Engineering and Technology Center under construction

collect data right outside the classroom,” Kelley said.

The interactive learning format also will be equipped with 3-D printers, a machine room and a carpentry area, creating what Pascarella calls a true “work bench.”

“A student can come up with an idea and take it from an idea to the computer lab to design a product, and they can actually build their product and test it. This building is designed to promote creativity,” Pascarella said.

One level of the new center will be dedicated to agricultural sciences, where students will get hands-on experience in a wildlife lab and in an animal science physiology lab, among other great classrooms.

The building itself will be a work of “living art.”

“When people walk into our grand entry, they are going to be looking into a glass classroom of team-based learning and be able to see what’s going on. Students on the sidewalk also are going to be able to see what’s going on inside,” Kelley said.

The facility also will be home to the Fred Pirkle Honoric Museum, which will be located on the second floor.

“This museum will show future generations who Fred Pirkle was and how a common person could ‘make things happen,’ which is the overall theme of the center. There will be timelines showing when he was at Sam Houston and when he obtained certain patents,” Kelley said.

The Making of a Guru

Pirkle grew up in the Texas Hill Country and graduated high school in 1964. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial arts in 1970 from SHSU and a master’s degree in industrial technology in 1974. He moved to Pennsylvania in 1979 and started Therm-Omega-Tech, Inc., in 1982. His company provides a number of products to railroad companies and pharmaceutical firms. He



received patents on at least 20 inventions, several of which will be featured in the museum.

One invention on display will be the GURU Valve, which became the North American standard for locomotive freeze protection. The GURU Valve senses the temperature of the engine’s cooling system and trips open to drain before the coolant freezes and causes damage.

Visitors will also get a firsthand look at his BBQ GURU Pitminder, an automated fan for barbecue smokers that can control, or stoke, a fire.

People who knew Pirkle say he may have loved barbecuing as much as inventing.

If you never had the opportunity to meet him, “you are going to walk away and know who Fred Pirkle was,” Kelley said.

Enriching Educational Standards

Pirkle wanted \$5 million of his gift to be used for faculty enrichment.

“It is going to help keep our faculty engaged, allow us to keep our equipment up to standards, maybe even more

The building itself will be a work of “living art.”

advanced than we are in industry,” Kelley said. “We can have these students more prepared and ready. It will help me as a department chair attract exceptional faculty who are excelling in whatever area we are focusing on—maybe it’s electronics; maybe it’s construction management.”

“There’s a wide range of things this money could be used for,” Pascarella added. “It could be used to supplement faculty during the summer, to help with research projects and to assist with equipment needs.”

Paying it Forward

Undergraduate and graduate students studying engineering technology also are benefiting financially from Pirkle’s commitment to SHSU.

The alumnus funded The Frederick L.

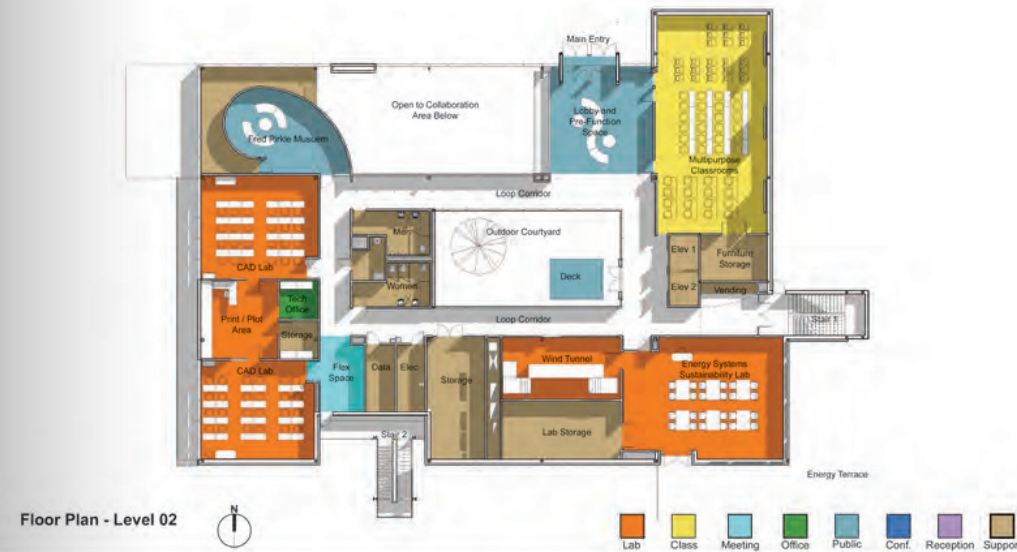


Pirkle Scholarship Fund with \$10 million of his donation.

Among students receiving scholarships for the 2015-2016 academic year were Melissa Spencer, who earned a degree in engineering technology, with an emphasis on safety management, in May, and Shadai Turner, who will graduate in December with a degree in engineering technology design and development.

“Receiving this scholarship meant that I could finish college; it really helped me out financially,” Spencer said. “In my

The Center’s second floor includes a Pirkle Museum



1920s

The Vocational Agriculture Club is organized.

Manual Arts is changed to Industrial Arts.

100 acres is purchased, which later becomes the Agriculture Center.

Land and structures adjacent to campus—the site of the current Sam Houston Memorial Museum—are used by the Agriculture Department to teach vegetable production and modern agriculture practices.

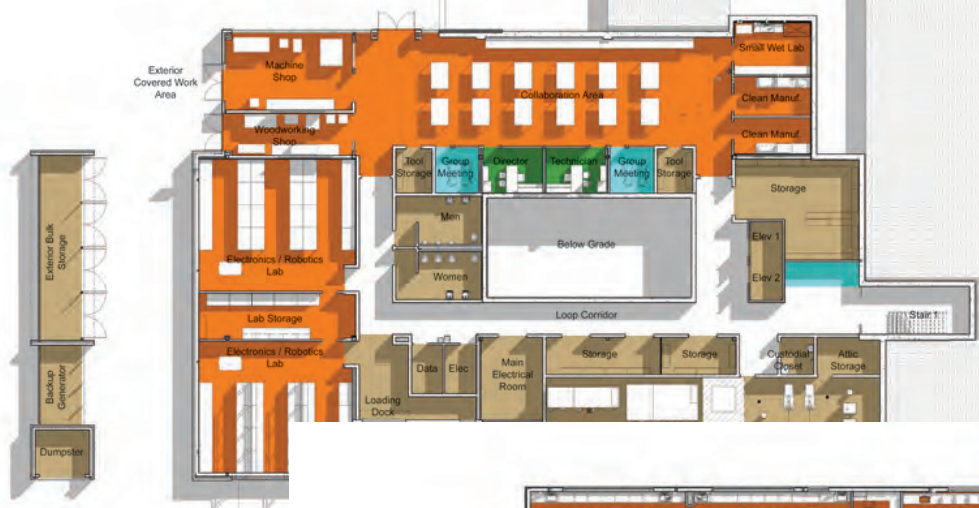


1930s

The Agriculture Department sponsors the first State Leadership Contest for the Texas Association of Future Farmers of America.

In 1938 the Horticulture Center is established. As of 2016, the center remains at its original site.





The Center's first floor includes machine and woodworking shops, a large collaboration area, plus electronic and robotics labs. Besides office and a student lounge, the third floor includes a wildlife physiology lab, a multimedia work room and a floral design lab.



Floor Plan - Level 03



classes, we had been learning about Mr. Pirkle. It made me feel special to receive the scholarship, knowing what he stood for and who he was.”

In one of her classes, Spencer also had the opportunity to review the blueprints of The Fred Pirkle Technology Center.

“I was really fascinated by all of the new things going into it,” she said. “People who are interested in the field, I think, will be drawn to Sam Houston. They will say ‘there are new things happening at Sam Houston and that’s a place I want to be.’”

Spencer now is working in the industry and hopes to further her career in the safety department of a large-scale construction company.

Turner, who graduates this semester, is hoping to start her career in residential design. Receiving the Pirkle Scholarship, she said, made it much easier for her to focus on her studies rather than how to pay for college.

“It meant a great deal, as my family

“I was really fascinated by all of the new things going into it. People who are interested in the field, I think, will be drawn to Sam Houston. They will say ‘there are new things happening at Sam Houston and that’s a place I want to be.’”

does not have the financial means to pay for college. I am very grateful that he started this scholarship, as it has opened a lot of doors for me,” Turner said. “I am sorry I did not get to meet Mr. Fred Pirkle,

and I am honored that I was chosen to be a recipient of his scholarship.”

Looking into the Future

Sam Houston State University continues to promote growth within the College of Science and Engineering Technology with the construction of a new biology laboratory building and plans to expand Gibbs Ranch. Construction began on the biology laboratory building, which will be located south of Bowers Boulevard, between Avenues I and J, in June.

“It will relieve space limitations on many freshman labs, particularly human anatomy and physiology and pre-nursing microbiology, and will provide dedicated research labs for faculty. We currently lack capacity in these classes and cannot hire faculty due to lack of research space,” Pascarella said.

SHSU is using Tuition Revenue Bonds and system bonds to build the biology

“I have taken such an emotional role in trying to make certain Pirkle’s wishes were fulfilled in the building. I think he would be speechless. I hope he would say that this is exactly what he wanted.”

laboratory building, but funding is needed to fulfill plans for Gibbs Ranch.

The design plans include building an equine academic center and multi-purpose indoor arena, plant science labs, and meat science labs.

“Current facilities are outdated and need extensive deferred maintenance, so the new buildings will enhance teaching and research efforts,” Pascarella said. “This will allow the I-45 Agricultural Center to relocate and allow other uses for that site.”

While Kelley will oversee future progress at Gibbs Ranch, today, he is anxiously awaiting the grand opening of the cutting-edge Fred Pirkle Engineering Technology Center.

The building will serve as a reminder to students of how someone can “make it happen” when they think “beyond what’s expected” and will show the country that SHSU is leading education in science and engineering technology.

“I have taken such an emotional role in trying to make certain his (Pirkle’s) wishes were fulfilled in the building,” Kelley said. “I think he would be speechless. I hope he would say that this is exactly what he wanted.” ★



Biology Laboratory Building

1940s

World War II impacted the enrollment of agriculture students—mainly young men. After the war, the Josey Vocational School was established to facilitate the certification of veterans for employment in the fields of electricity, welding, auto mechanics, leather craft, furniture making, construction, and other “hands-on” crafts.

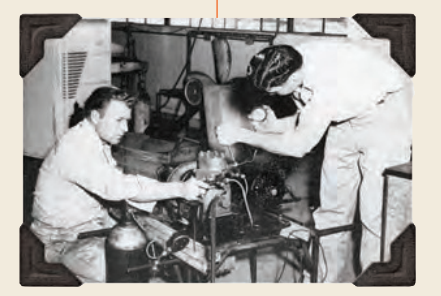


The first master’s degree in agriculture is awarded.

President Harmon Lowman purchases a German prisoner of war camp northeast of Huntsville from the U.S. government for \$1. The location comes to be known as Country Campus.

The Josey School is moved to this location and students are allowed to receive academic credit for the courses.

Agriculture students are able to live on the facility and are known as the College Farm Boys.



'Patent' Problem-Solvers



Over the years, Bearkats have used their ingenuity to invent products that simplify our jobs, inject fun into sports and save lives.

GERAL FAUSS— GIVING US THE (FOAM) FINGER

Standing in a crowded, roaring stadium, you watch two teams collide—in one hand, your favorite beverage, and on the other, a commemorative foam finger. The brainchild of 1969 and 1972 graduate Geral Fauss, the foam finger was designed from signs created in 1977 that Fauss and his Cypress-Fairbanks students used to cheer on the football team and was first devised out of Masonite to sell at the 1978 Cotton Bowl. The novelty's success led Fauss to venture into the sports merchandising business, and through his Spirit Industries, he began producing the polyurethane foam version we know today. Almost 40 years later, the hands still appear at sporting events and even places such as political rallies, proving the product is No. 1 in the hearts of fans.

(Read more about Geral Fauss in the "Where Are They Now" vignettes on page 33).



HARRY WESTMORELAND— AN OVERFLOWING PASSION

Harry Westmoreland's faith and his love for helping the less fortunate flowed as unbounded as the earth's waters. When his drill bit manufacturing company took the '71 and '74 alumnus to Peru, he encountered a missionary who was drilling wells for locals who lacked a clean, safe source of water. Inspired, Westmoreland devised a new, lightweight, portable drilling rig in 1989 that could be set up and broken down in minutes, as well as carried to areas inaccessible by conventional portable drilling machines. Because of the LS 100, LS 200 and LS 300 and Living Water International, founded by Westmoreland and fellow parishioners, almost 4,000 water projects in 21 countries were completed, providing millions with both clean water and the "living water" of God.

1950s



The Agriculture Meats and Dairy Laboratory facility, located next to the Thomason Building, is completed.

1960s

The Outdoor Rodeo Arena is moved from campus—where White Hall is currently located—to the Ag Center land adjacent to Interstate 45.



1970s

Industrial Arts is changed to Industrial Education and Technology, and SHSU becomes one of six universities to certify students in Trades and Industry.

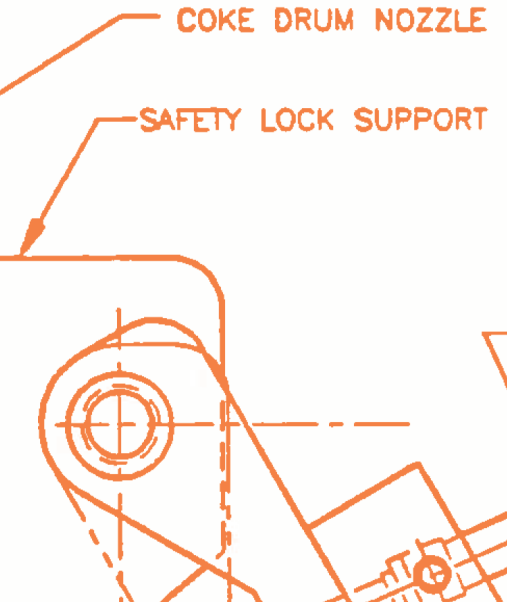
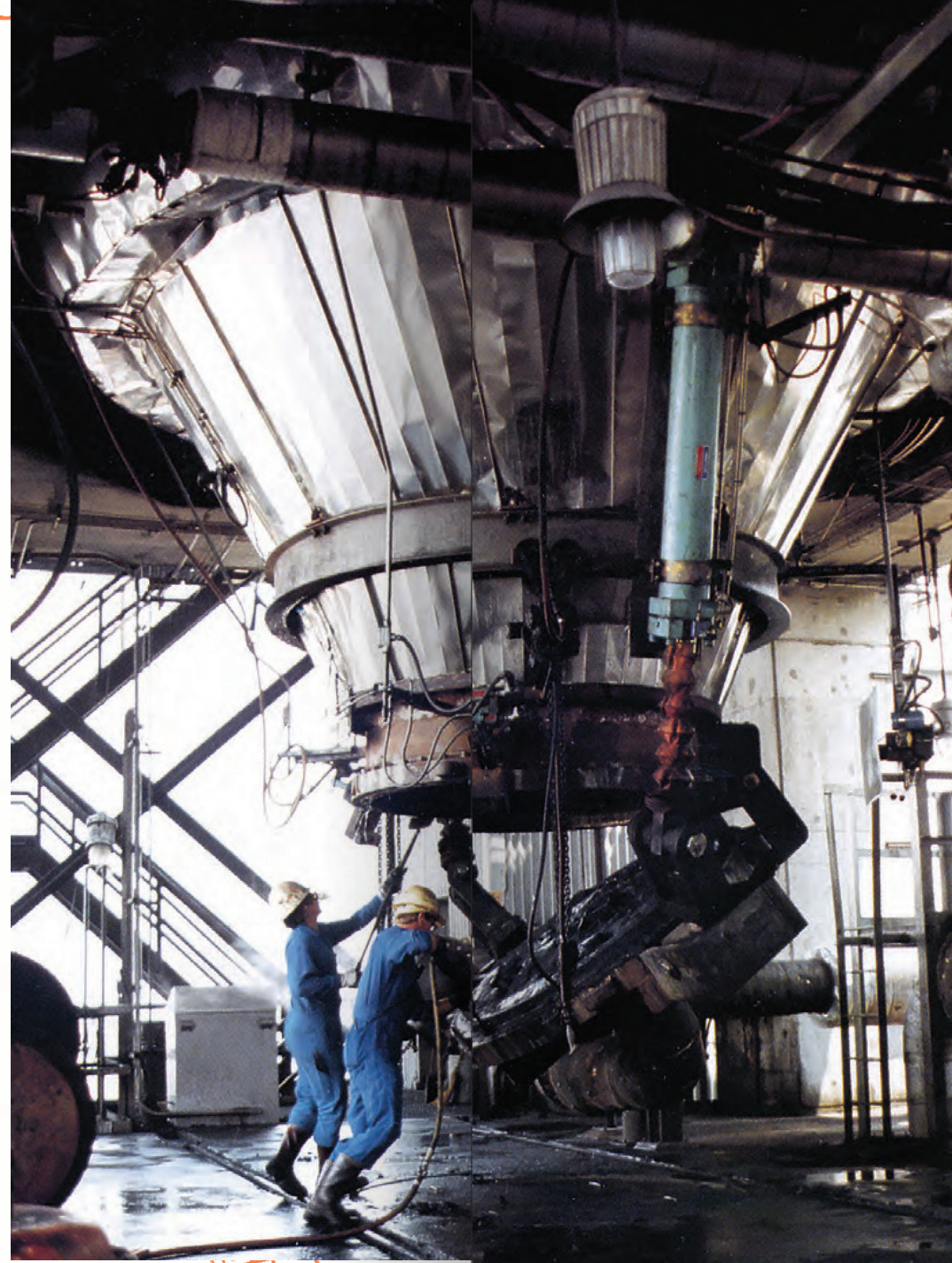
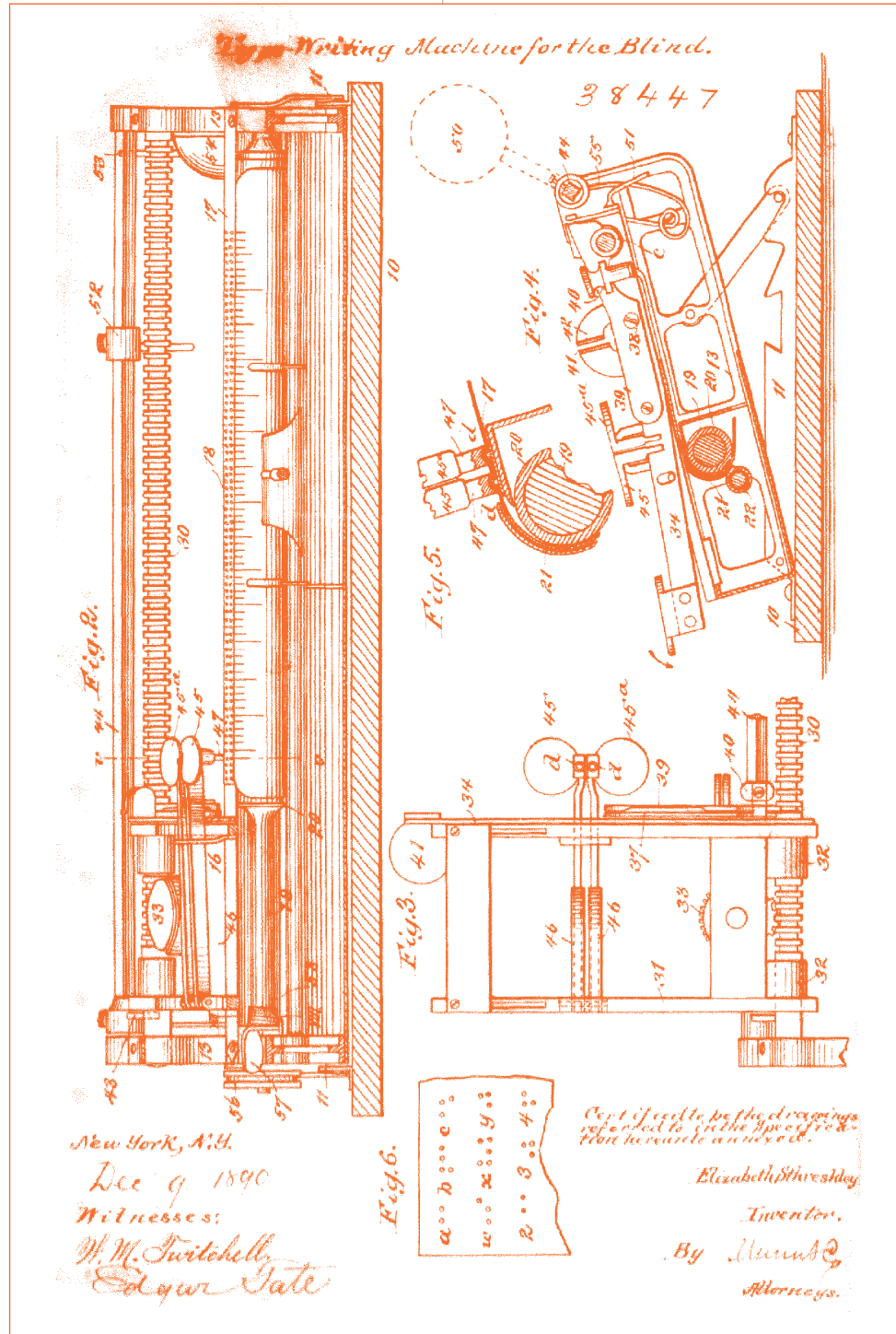
Construction of the Agriculture Center is completed with an indoor arena, horse stalls, milking parlor, abattoir, poultry houses, feed mill, swine barn, and cattle feedlot.

The Outdoor Arena is moved from the Ag Center to land where Raven Nest is currently located.

The Agricultural Alumni Association is formed and remains active today.

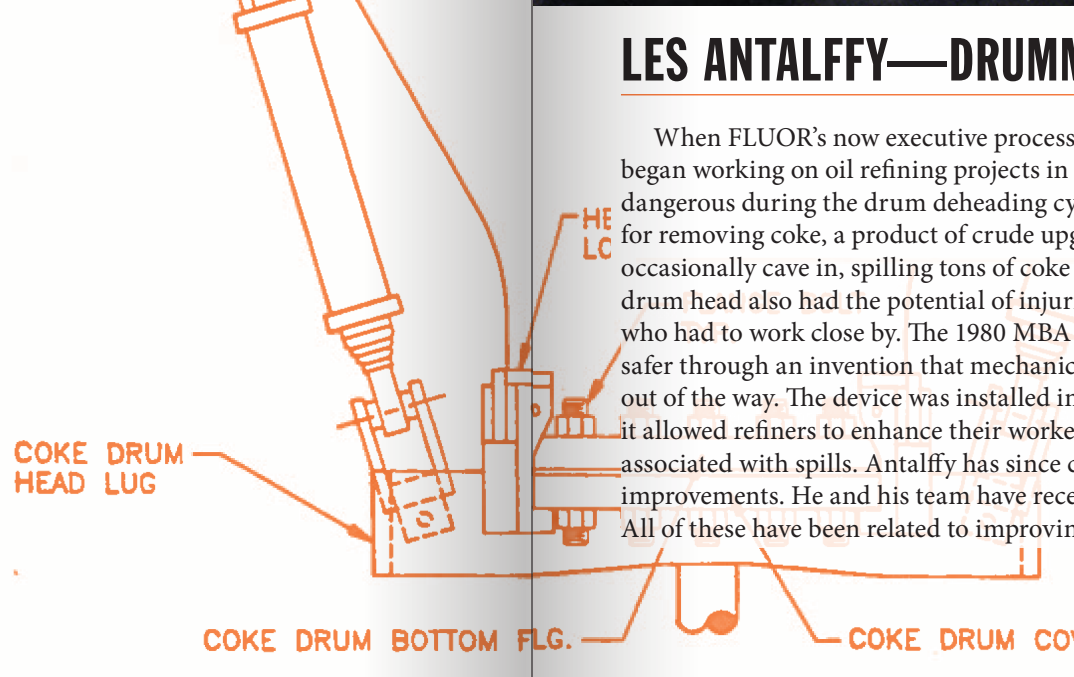
ELIZABETH STHRESHLEY TOWNSEND— A NEW TYPE OF COMMUNICATION

Elizabeth Sthreshley Townsend was likely just a young girl when the first commercially successful typewriter was invented in America in 1868. But after graduating from Sam Houston Normal Institute in 1886 and accepting a position at the Texas Institute for the Blind, she invented a machine that would enable her, and others, to communicate in writing with the visually impaired. The punctograph, an “improvement in machines for the production of writings for the blind,” was patented in 1889 and produced documents written in braille, allowing those with whom Townsend worked to read typed materials.



LES ANTALFFY—DRUMMING UP SECURITY DEVICE

When FLUOR's now executive process director and senior fellow Les Antalffy began working on oil refining projects in the 1970s, the delayed coking process was dangerous during the drum deheading cycle. When the unit's drums were deheaded for removing coke, a product of crude upgrading, coke within the drums would occasionally cave in, spilling tons of coke onto the deck; manually removing the drum head also had the potential of injuring or scalding the deheading operators who had to work close by. The 1980 MBA graduate made the deheading process safer through an invention that mechanically supported, then lowered, drum covers out of the way. The device was installed in numerous refineries in several countries; it allowed refiners to enhance their workers' safety and minimize lost production associated with spills. Antalffy has since continued to engineer other safety improvements. He and his team have received 12 U.S. patents and a 13th is pending. All of these have been related to improving safety in delayed coking.



1980s

The Departments of Agriculture and Industrial Education and Technology become part of the College of Education and Applied Science.



Agricultural Sciences and Industrial Technology programs are temporarily moved from the Industrial Arts Building to the Thomason Building.

The Industrial Arts Building is demolished.

During the mid-to-late 1980s, consideration is given for removal of the agriculture and industrial technology curriculum from the course offerings at SHSU due to stagnant enrollment growth in both programs.

1990s

Country Campus is sold and 1,740 acres of land is purchased north of Huntsville. The Ag Farm is moved from Country Campus to what is known today as Gibbs Ranch.

A portion of land associated with the Ag Center, which was pastureland for the dairy herd, is repurposed and becomes Raven Nest Golf Course.

Ag Mechanization is moved from the Farm Shop to a new facility, known today as the William R. Harrell Agricultural Engineering Technology Center. Soon afterward, Industrial Technology is moved into the ITB Facility.



FIG. 3

BARRY DRAGER—SPRINGING INTO ACTION

Springs may be a small component of a piece of equipment, but they also are critical. This is the case for those found in 1991 graduate Barry Drager's 2010 patent for a lift assist apparatus for railway man covers. Man covers grant operators cleaning and inspection access to tanker cars that are used to transport liquids; because covers can be heavy, federal regulations require the force needed to lift the covers be no more than 50 pounds. Thanks to the mechanical advantage provided from Drager's system, operators can now lift covers without worry of injury. The patent is one of six for Drager, whose Draco Spring Manufacturing Co. caters to 4,000 customers worldwide, including NASCAR's purple racing springs and the New York Subway System. It also has made a "world" of difference for NASA's moon buggy.

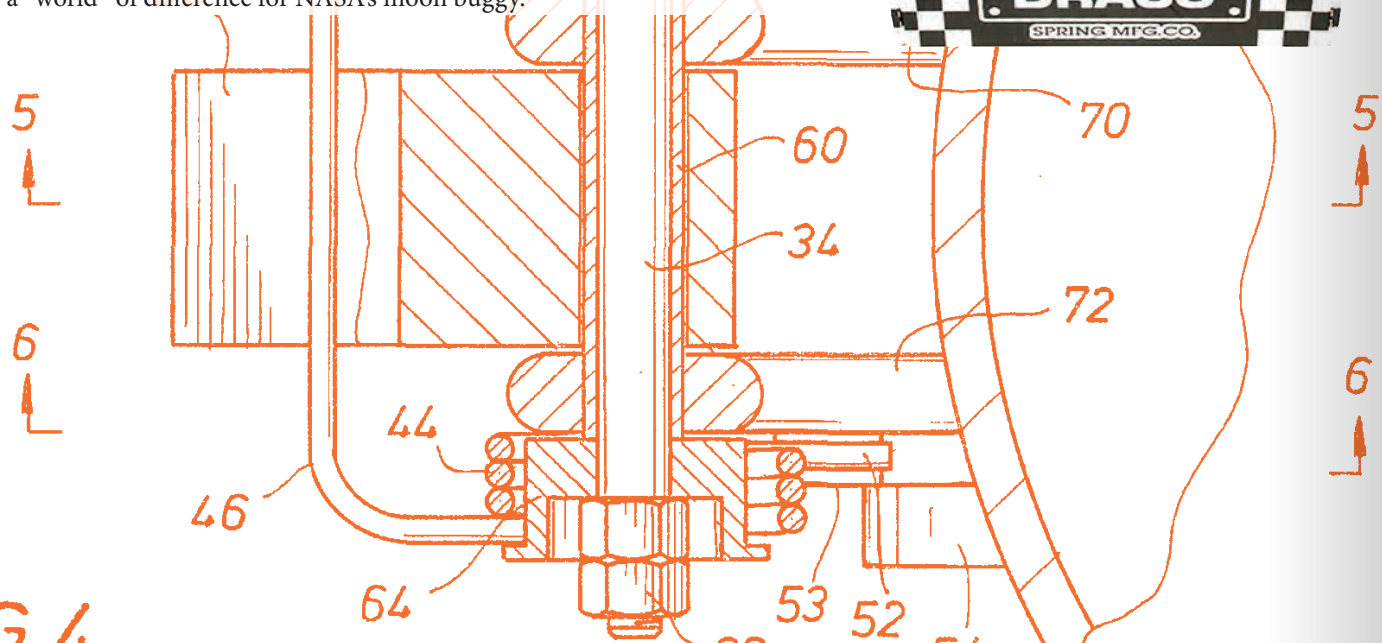


FIG. 4



TAREK O. SOURYAL—BOOSTING MEDICAL SAFETY

When you go to the doctor, you may take for granted that the injection you are given contains the medicine you need, even though the medicine bottles and labels often look the same. But in an emergency situation, when confusion can run high, the likelihood of a mistake can become alarmingly increased and potentially deadly. Thanks to the work of 1977 biology graduate Dr. Tarek O. Souryal, however, cancer patients do not have to worry about a life-threatening mix-up. In 1995, Souryal patented his idea of color-coding dangerous injectable medicines, a process achieved by adding harmless coloring materials to the bottles. The process was licensed by Bristol-Myers Squibb for a highly toxic cancer drug, and the technique has likely saved lives.

(Read more about Tarek O. Souryal in the "Where Are They Now" vignettes on page 32).

2000s

The Departments of Agricultural Sciences and Industrial Technology merge and form the Department of Agricultural and Industrial Sciences. The department is moved to the College of Arts and Sciences.

The department celebrates 100 years of teaching Agriculture and Industrial Technology.

2010s

Industrial Technology changes to Engineering Technology and the department name becomes Agricultural Sciences and Engineering Technology.

Ground breaking for the Fred Pirkle Engineering Technology Center takes place.

The agriculture program launches its second master's degree in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Environment, with a 100 percent online curriculum, the first of its kind in Texas.

The first Fred Pirkle Scholars are identified and receive scholarships.

Growth places the program in the "Top 10" for semester credit-hour generation.

The Industrial Technology Building facility name changes to the Harry L. Westmoreland Engineering Technology Laboratory.

The College of Sciences changes to the College of Science and Engineering Technology.

HEROES — WILL — RISE

SHSU.EDU/HEROES



State Foundation Recognizes Miller's Passion For Teaching



Sam Houston State University psychology professor Rowland Miller has been named a recipient of the prestigious Piper Professor Award for 2016.

The Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation annually awards 10 professors \$5,000 each for superior teaching at the college level. Selection is made on the basis of nominations submitted by each university in the state of Texas. Begun in 1958, with eight awards, the roster of Piper Professors includes outstanding professors from two- and four-year colleges, public and private. Miller is the 14th Sam Houston

State University professor honored since the program's inception.

Miller was hired as an assistant professor of psychology in 1978 in what is now the SHSU College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Since coming to SHSU, Miller has been promoted to full professor and has been active in service, including chairing the psychology and philosophy departmental promotion and tenure committee and serving on the College of Humanities and Social Sciences dean's advisory committee on promotion and tenure. He currently serves on the editorial boards of the

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY



Current Enrollment:
Agricultural Sciences – 837
Agricultural Sciences Graduate
Program – 58
Engineering Technology – 315

Degree Programs

Agriculture:

- interdisciplinary agriculture
- agricultural business
- agricultural engineering technology
- agricultural communications
- animal science
- pre-veterinary medicine
- plant and soil sciences

Minors:

- wildlife management
- equine science
- teacher certification

Engineering Technology:

- construction management
- design and development
- engineering technology
- safety management
- electronics
- electronics and computer engineering technology

Over the years, Miller also has been recognized for his research and teaching, including winning the SHSU Excellence in Research award in 1998, the International Association for Relationship Research's teaching award and as a fellow of the Association for Psychological Science. He also has authored or co-authored three books.

This year, his passion for teaching earned him the elite Piper Award.

"I'm quite astonished, surprised and amazed, but deeply honored. The warm support and heartfelt congratulations I've received from my colleagues have been the very best part," Miller said.

Making an impact on the lives of others is what has motivated him to teach.

"In a line of work like this, you get to have real impact and meaningful influence. What else can one do with one's life work that's more fundamental and important in the long run than education?" Miller asks.

"Healing is meaningful, building is important but knowledge is transformative. It's something that makes me proud. It's such a gift to have a job that is so rich and fulfilling. I count myself as very lucky," he said.

Darryl Johnson, SHSU Psychological Services Center staff psychologist, said Miller definitely has made an impact on his life, having taken multiple undergraduate and graduate courses taught by Miller, who also chaired Johnson's dissertation project.

"It is fair to say that from kindergarten through Ph.D., I have sat in the classrooms of close to 100 instructors. Dr. Miller is by far the best teacher I have ever seen. No one is more deserving of this award," Johnson said. "Dr. Miller is the rare combination of scholar, storyteller, and showman who can deliver lectures that are informative, intriguing, and entertaining." ☆

SHSU professor's work selected as a 2016 Pulitzer finalist



been set apart from society, even after almost a century since the war finished; they were deeply troubled by what they had lived through. I never really forgot that."

This concept later inspired Jordan's dissertation topic at Yale University that

SHSU received exciting news this spring when "Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War" by assistant professor of history Brian Matthew Jordan was named a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in History.

"We are beyond thrilled that Dr. Brian Matthew Jordan and his important work on a neglected aspect of Civil War history were recognized by the Pulitzer committee," said Abbey Zink, dean of SHSU's College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

"Brian exemplifies the teacher-scholar model to which we aspire in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences," she said. "He is a wonderful historian, teacher, and colleague, with an incredibly bright future. I enjoyed his book, and he is one of the best lecturers I've ever heard. We couldn't be happier for or prouder of him."

As a young man growing up in Akron, Ohio, Jordan loved learning about the Civil War. A close friend had crisscrossed the Midwest, seeking out the last surviving Civil War veterans, and he imparted the stories he was told to Jordan.

"He was actually a pen pal with the last surviving veteran of the Union Army, Albert Woolson," Jordan said. "He had these amazing stories to tell me. But there was one overall message that connected everything—these veterans had always

went on to become "Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War."

The book centers on the challenges Union veterans faced at the completion of the war. According to Jordan, while civilian society was more than prepared to transition into the post-war era, veterans of the conflict struggled to move past the atrocities that had forever changed them.

As a result, they could not enjoy the reconciliation the rest of society did, and they forever faced a conflict between their inner turmoil and their peacetime surroundings.

In some ways, echoes of this struggle still reverberate with the men and women who serve our country today. Jordan hopes that the book will help continue the conversation about veteran's issues.

"The Civil War accomplished a lot, but it also cost a lot," he said. "Even today, with today's veterans and the progress we've made with problems like PTSD and the trauma of combat, there is room for improvement about acknowledging the costs of war."

The 2016 Pulitzer Prize in History winner was "Custer's Trials: A Life on the Frontier of a New America" by T. J. Stiles. ☆



Detailing The Past

The left hind foot of a Myanmar lizard. Amber-imprisoned lizards from Southeast Asia makeup the oldest assemblage of tropical lizards ever found in amber.

A rare opportunity to examine amber-entombed lizards led biology professor Juan Diego Daza to uncover unprecedentedly preserved fossils from a time when dinosaurs still roamed the earth.

Finding proof where very little exists is among the jobs of a scientist.

Sam Houston State University assistant professor of biological sciences Juan Diego Daza's quest to learn about and reclassify species of lizards has allowed him more than just the rare opportunity to examine proof that lizards existed 100 million years ago—it has allowed him to find something groundbreaking.

Daza was a post-doctoral fellow at Villanova University, located near Philadelphia, when he received what would become a once-in-a-lifetime offer.

David Grimaldi, an entomologist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, was reaching out to Aaron Bauer, the researcher with whom Daza was completing his fellowship, regarding a collection of rare fossils trapped in amber that had been found by miners in Myanmar. He was looking for lizard experts to help him examine the collection.

A herpetologist by training, Daza had written only one paper on animals trapped in amber, but he jumped at the opportunity. Studying animals trapped in amber is considered a “cool new field” because technological advancements have allowed scientists to better examine the trapped animals.

“With CT scans, we can do 3-D models of the animal,” Daza said. “Looking through the amber is fine, but if you’ve ever looked at something through glass or that is embedded in glass, the image can be distorted. But X-rays pass through the amber and are able to give us a sharp image.”

Upon arriving in New York, Daza began what would become a two-year project examining the Myanmar specimens, comparing the tiniest of details from the amber scans to previously



A specimen analyzed after the discovery in Myanmar is found to be well preserved and 75 million years older than previous tropical lizard discoveries.

known fossilized lizard groups, as well as to living species, in an effort to identify and classify the 12 Myanmar fossils.

“When you find something that’s strikingly different from known lizard groups, you start realizing that there is something that doesn’t match, and you can be confident that you might be facing a new species,” Daza said. “Finding the position of these fossils in the lizard tree of life is not a matter of opinion. You need to sit down and go through a long list of reptile features; then you do a Phylogenetic analysis and the computer calculates the best placement on the tree.”

What the researchers found was that the Myanmar fossils were the oldest, most diverse assemblage ever encountered of fossils trapped in amber, dating back 100 million years to the middle Cretaceous period, the same time when dinosaurs still roamed the earth.

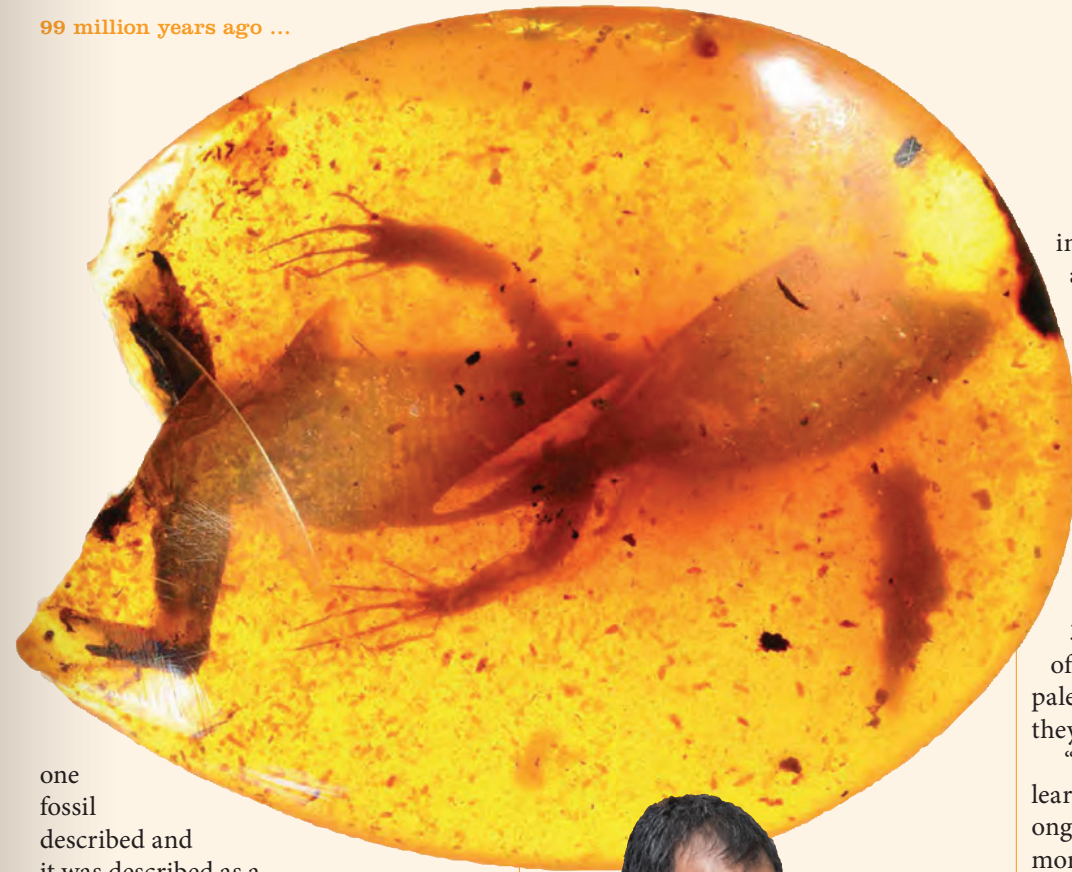
Not only that, but the lizards were extremely well preserved, and the researchers encountered never-before-seen details, such as visible skin pigment and the lizard’s scales.

“Scales are soft tissue and they decay fast; normally what you recover in a fossil is the skeleton, but in this case, we have scales,”

Daza said. “One even has a tongue! When it was trapped, the tongue was sticking out and you can see the details of the tissue covering the surface of the tongue. It’s amazing!”

“Before this publication, there was only

99 million years ago ...



one fossil described and it was described as a gecko, but what was represented in that was only a piece of a tail and a leg, enough to tell you something but it was not very complete,” he said. “When we started finding more animals in a better state of preservation, it was like a trip to the past that has allowed us to see things nobody has seen before. Everything that we kept finding was something new.”

Ultimately, the research found that the Myanmar fossils contained lizards that are among the closest relatives to geckos and chameleons, as well as one lizard that resembles the inferred ancestor of all lizards.

“Now, not only can we predict that they were present, but there is a specimen that actually represents how geckos looked in the past,” Daza said.

When Daza and his peers published their findings, it took the science world by storm. As the principal investigator, Daza received interview requests from journalists around the globe, and his abstract was read by more than 17,000 scientists and science aficionados,

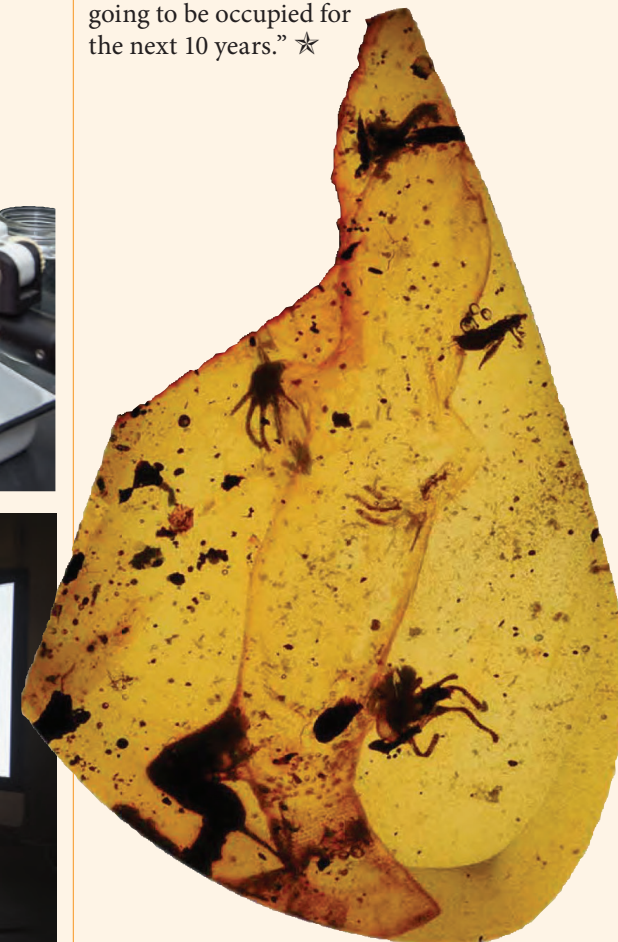


including large concentrations in Japan and the United Kingdom.

“Normally when I write a paper, only 20 or 30 specialists would read it, but 17,380 people have read this paper,” he said. “That’s pretty unusual for any field in science.”

The project also is the gift that keeps on giving. Not only is Daza’s student team at SHSU continuing to work on aspects of the fossils by writing more descriptions and using 3-D printing to recreate the skeletons of the fossils, but he’s working with a paleo-artist to provide renderings of what they’re working on.

“There are still newer things we’re learning,” Daza said. “We have more ongoing projects, we’ve started getting more and more material, so there is more coming from this; it’s very exciting. We’re going to be occupied for the next 10 years.” ★



A+ Perfect Score

By Paul Ridings



Janine Kuwahara (bowling), **Maddie Mortimore** (tennis) and **Josh Reynolds** (football) compiled perfect 4.0 career grade point averages during their careers at SHSU. This year, each earned recognition as College Sports Information Directors Association NCAA Division I Academic All-Region selections.

“Only 12 student-athletes from a nine-state area that includes teams from the Big 12, SEC, American Athletic, Conference USA, Sun Belt, Big Sky, and Southland leagues receive this high honor in each sport,” associate athletic director Chris Thompson said. “To have three student-athletes from Sam Houston all be voted Academic All-Region in the same school year is fantastic.”

Just 11 Bearkats have received Academic All-Region honors a total of 13 times during SHSU’s 29 years of NCAA Division I competition.

The trio’s honors came during a school year in which the 415 student-athletes at SHSU compiled a fall department grade point average of 3.22 (a school record) and a spring mark of 3.11 (third highest semester GPA in SHSU history). Bearkat student-athletes have combined to produce 3.0 GPAs or higher eight of the last nine semesters.

“A 4.0 grade point average represents perfection, flawless and complete,” Thompson said. “Janine, Maddie and Josh all have defined the term ‘student-athlete’ since they arrived on campus. They are gifted in their athletic careers, and each has earned their undergraduate degree and is moving on to work on a master’s.”

As a final honor for the 2015-16 season, Reynolds, Kuwahara and Mortimore all were recognized as the winners of the Fred Gibson top male and female Scholar Athlete Awards at the Night of Champions celebration in May.

Kuwahara, an accounting major from Davao City in the Philippines, was home-schooled by her mother, Vevian, from fifth grade. As a successful international bowler for the Philippine Youth National Team, she never imagined she would be able to attend college and bowl at the same time.

“When I got the offer to bowl in America, everything changed for me,” Kuwahara said. “I was thinking it would be hard coming from a different country, but everyone has been friendly and my teammates are awesome. They are my roommates as well. They have been good friends.”

Fourteen time zones away

from her home, Kuwahara has fit in well. In her freshman season she helped lead the Kats to the NCAA championship. This season she earned All-American and team “Most Valuable Player” honors on a squad that finished with a No. 5 national ranking after the program’s fourth NCAA Championship berth in five years.

Additionally, Kuwahara was voted to the 2016 CoSIDA Academic All-America honor squad and received the coveted NCAA Elite 90 Award at the NCAA Women’s Bowling Championship in North Brunswick, New Jersey. The Elite 90 honor is presented to the top academic student-athlete at every NCAA

national championship event.

Mortimore also crossed an ocean to come to Huntsville. The economics and international business major from Farnham, Surrey, in England, was the lone senior on the 2016 women’s tennis team. With 63 career singles wins, she owns the third highest victory total in program history. The two-time All-Southland performer claims she will always remember her first impression of Texas.

“It was very hot,” Mortimore said. “Going from the air terminal to the car park, I was sun burnt already. My first day, I was wearing red shorts. I just remember being the same color as the shorts.”

Active off the court as well, she has served as an officer for the Sam Houston Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and as a tutor in the SHSU Learning Enhancement Center.

“SAAC definitely has been a lot of fun. I really enjoyed those activities just as much as tennis and school,” Mortimore said. “I love tutoring, too, giving back by using the knowledge I’ve gained in four years to help other student-athletes. It’s fulfilling when you help someone develop the study skills and habits that help them succeed. I’ve enjoyed my time here. Those who know me probably say I haven’t been ‘Americanized’ that much. But there are definitely parts of Texas culture that I have incorporated into my life.”

Reynolds, who earned his bachelor’s degree in mass communication, has a back story that reads like the script from the 1993 movie “Rudy,” about an undersized high school player who walks on at Notre Dame and finally makes the field for the big game.

Five feet, 10 inches tall and 145 pounds as a senior from the community of Axtell, he never really got a look from college recruiters. He joined the Bearkat football team as a freshman manager in 2011 and followed up by trying out to play on the scout team.

“Whatever I had to do to make it, I was going to do,” Reynolds said.

“They gave

me an opportunity. They saw that I worked hard, so they kept me and eventually I just got better and better.”

Reynolds joined a football program that won Southland Conference championships in 2011, 2012 and 2014 and earned five consecutive berths in the NCAA Division I Football Championship playoffs.

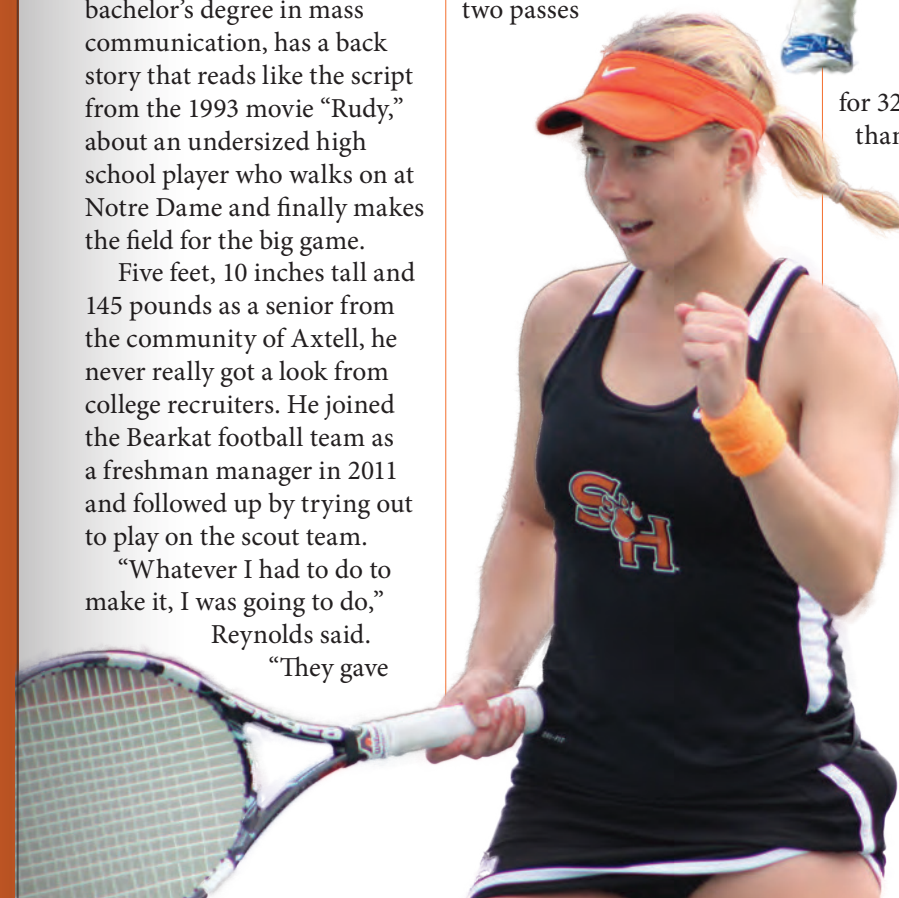
“Just being on the scout team, I liked being a part of something big,” Reynolds said. “That kept me with it and pushed me harder to prove that I could play on Saturdays.”

When K. C. Keeler and his new staff took over the program in 2014, Reynolds stepped into a role of reserve wide receiver. He scored his first touchdown as a junior against Incarnate Word and caught two passes



for 32 yards in front of more than 50,000 fans in Lubbock in last year’s season opener at Texas Tech.

“All the hard work was worth it,” Reynolds said. “There’s a lot of stuff we do behind the scenes, but Saturday, on game day, it pays off.”★



Going Pro...

Bearkat Athletes Find Success In Life After SHSU



RYAN BRIGHT

Ryan Bright, one of Sam Houston State University's most honored men's basketball student-athletes, believes he has come full circle in his career.

"It hit me while I was coaching at a youth camp this summer," the Deer Park native said. "I told the youngsters that when I was their age, I was sitting right where they were, learning basketball fundamentals. Now I'm the coach working in the same gym. It's neat to be back in that kind of role."

Bright is a physics teacher and coach at Deer Park High School, where in 2003 and 2004, he earned All-District basketball honors.

Signing with SHSU, Bright helped lead the Bearkats to an 84-29 win-loss record from 2005 to 2008. He stands as the program's second all-time leading rebounder (967 boards) and seventh in all-time scoring (1,429 points).

He was both a three-time All-Southland and Academic All-Conference selection. He was honored as Southland Men's Basketball "Student-Athlete of the Year" in both 2007 and 2008.

After graduation, Bright played two seasons of international ball for the Austin Toros in the NBA Development League in Australia.

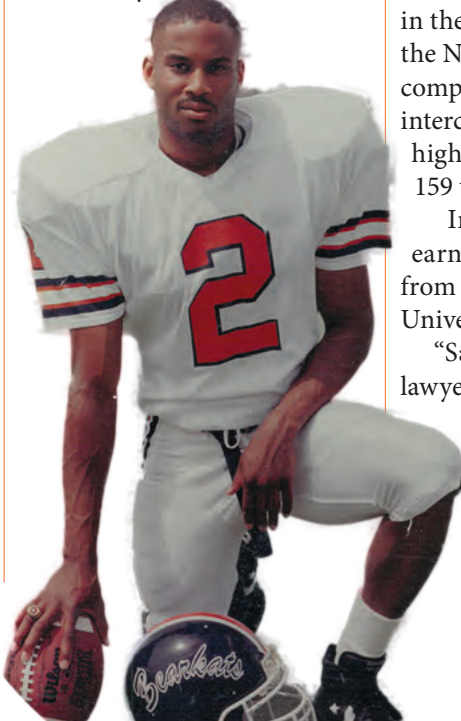
"It was a fantastic opportunity to get to travel

"Teaching is something I always wanted to do. I have a passion for working with kids. I feel fortunate to have a job I love."

the world while getting paid to play my favorite sport," Bright said. "Returning to Texas, I started as a long-term sub in Deer Park, then coached and taught a year in Conroe. There was an opening back at Deer Park High School and I jumped at it. This is where my wife Jennifer and I want to be. Teaching is something I always wanted to do. I have a passion for working with kids. I feel fortunate to have a job I love."

CHARLES BOYCE

As a sophomore starter at cornerback in an inexperienced defensive secondary, Charles



Boyce was part of a Bearkat football team that went 3-8 in 1989.

Battling through early adversity, the DeSoto product went on to earn All-Southland Conference honors three years in a row. His senior season, the Kats won their first Southland football championship following an 8-3-1 campaign that ended with the university's second NCAA playoff berth.

SHSU athletic director Bobby Williams, who then tutored the secondary for head coach Ron Randleman, remembers Boyce and his teammates.

"That was a young group that could have hung their heads and given up," Williams said. "But they came together and became one of the best defensive backfields we've had here."

In Boyce's senior year, the SHSU defense ranked third in the nation in scoring defense, allowing opponents only 13.2 points per game, the lowest total by any Bearkat squad in the program's 29 years at the NCAA FCS level. Boyce completed his career with 10 interceptions (the fifth all-time highest total at SHSU) and 159 tackles.

In May 2016, Boyce earned his Juris Doctorate from Oklahoma City University School of Law.

"Sam Houston has another lawyer in the secondary,"

Boyce said. "I will always be thankful to the coaching staff for putting their trust in me as a sophomore

starter. The success we experienced has given me confidence to achieve throughout my life."

Boyce also was an Academic All-Southland Conference honoree for the Bearkats.

"Sam Houston gave me my start in higher education," Boyce said. "The recognition and praise we received as student-athletes who excelled in the classroom put us on the right track as well."

"Being a student-athlete is challenging, but with hard work and dedication everything is possible."

ROSHUNDA BETTS

In 2006 Roshunda Betts became only the second Bearkat woman to earn All-American honors in track and field. Originally coming to SHSU as a women's basketball player, Betts switched to track and field in 2005.

"I kept wishing I had another year of eligibility," Betts said. "Who knows what could have

happened. James Thompson, one of our assistant coaches, was the first to recognize that I could throw things. Coach Curtis Collier listened and put a javelin in my hand."

The rest is history. Betts won the Southland Conference javelin championship two years in a row and posted a fifth place finish at the NCAA Division I Championships with a throw of 173 feet, 10 inches. Until this spring, when Elizabeth Lyssy followed in Betts' footsteps with an appearance at nationals, the top five javelin throws in SHSU history were by Betts.

Since earning her degree in 2006, Betts has worked with autistic and emotionally disturbed children at the Bayes Achievement Center. She also owns and operates S.T.S., an athletic training studio in Huntsville.

"Being a student-athlete is challenging, but with hard work and dedication, everything is possible," Betts said. "I am so grateful to my coaches, the athletic administrators and the teachers at Sam Houston for pushing me to succeed. They taught me life lessons."

JENNY PENCE

Jenny Pence, two-time All-Southland Conference goalkeeper for the women's soccer team, is

another Bearkat who has achieved recent

post-graduate success.



The Kingwood product, who produced a school-record goals-against average of 1.53 from 2007 to 2010, has earned her Master

of Physical Assistant Studies degree from the University of Florida College of Medicine.

"After spending some time in Austin getting my prereqs and patient care hours, it was a thrill to complete my degree," Pence said. "I plan to practice Primary and Urgent Care at Rocky Mountain Family Practice in Leadville, Colorado."

Pence played in 75 matches during her Bearkat career while maintaining a 3.88 overall grade point average as a biology and chemistry double major. She was honored as an NCAA Division I Academic All-Region selection, voted to the NSCCAA All-South scholar athlete team and was a three-time Academic All-Southland team member.

Pence produced a school-record goals-against average of 1.53 from 2007 to 2010.

"I'm excited to be headed to Colorado," Pence said. "There are lots of awesome outdoor activities to do there, like cycling and hiking. And maybe I'll dust off the old soccer cleats every once in awhile."

JENNIE SEWELL

Jennie Sewell says she is reminded of SHSU track and field every time she looks down at her ankles.

"My right ankle is about two times bigger than my left," said the All-American and seven-time Southland Conference pole vault champion from Rockwall. "On one of my last vaults at the 2005 conference championships in Huntsville, I sprained my ankle. I was on crutches, but it turned out to be a great day, as we won the team championship. I remember my teammates carrying me around the track on our victory lap."

Sewell now works as a marketing coordinator and rental-bank manager for a collision repair equipment company and coaches at



many good directions.”

“My athletic scholarship gave me the opportunity to discover my talents and push myself to levels of achievement that I hoped were possible but wasn’t sure I believed in.”

MATT DOMINGUEZ

a high school outside of Chicago. The only Bearkat to win a gold medal at the Texas Relays and the 2007 Southland Conference women’s outdoor track and field “Student-Athlete of the Year” lived in the south of Germany for two years before returning to the United States.

“I would never have made it to any level of competency in athletics or life without the direction and help of my coaches, family and friends,” Sewell said. “My athletic scholarship at Sam Houston gave me the opportunity to discover my talents and push myself to levels of achievement that I hoped were possible but wasn’t sure I believed in.”

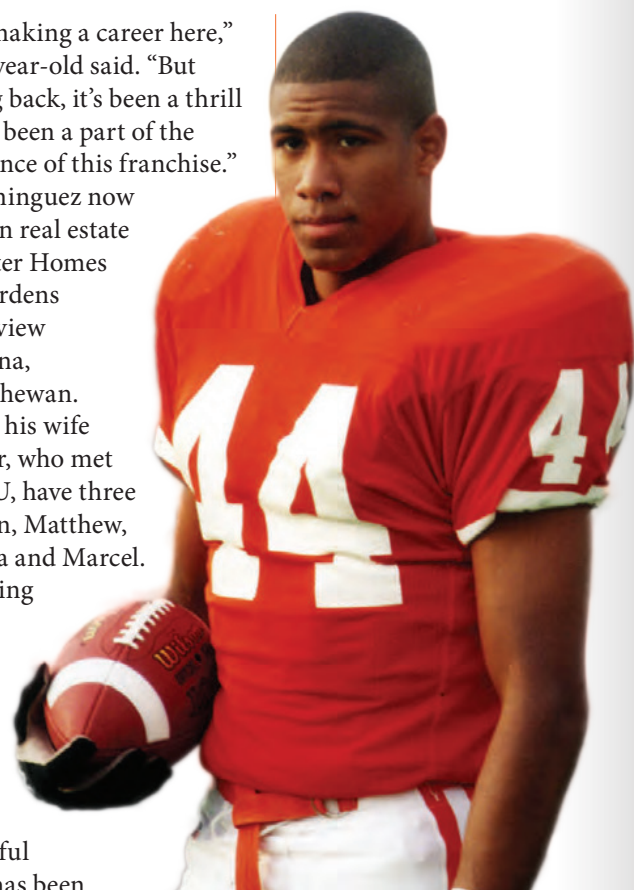
Sewell points out that every pole-vaulter ends their performance in a meet by failing three times at a certain height.

“That can be disappointing, but the important thing is knowing you did your best,” Sewell said. “My experiences pole vaulting have led me in so

about making a career here,” the 37-year-old said. “But looking back, it’s been a thrill to have been a part of the resurgence of this franchise.”

Dominguez now works in real estate for Better Homes and Gardens Prairieview in Regina, Saskatchewan. He and his wife Jennifer, who met at SHSU, have three children, Matthew, Victoria and Marcel.

Playing on two



successful teams has been exciting, but Dominguez says his best memories have been the relationships with his teammates.

“You remember a lot more than the wins and the losses,” Dominguez said. “It’s those relationships that you build within the locker room—going through practice, in the meetings, sharing your career with people—those are the things that you really recall for a while.”

GREG SPROWLS

Growing up as an all-sport athlete, if Greg Sprowls wasn’t playing sports, he was watching his favorite team on TV.

“My parents really

encouraged me to focus on academics, and I ended up finding my niche in the classroom, as well,” he said. “The choice to pursue medicine, and in particular orthopedic surgery, was sort of a natural progression, as it combined two things I was passionate about—athletics and academics.”

Sprowls grew up in Illinois and graduated from Claremont High School in California before making a home for himself in Texas after committing to SHSU to play football and pursue a pre-med degree in biology.

“The athletic department and coaching staff at SHSU really supported my aspirations to pursue medicine



surgeon Dr. Jesse Ward mentored me on the path to getting accepted into medical school.

Sprowls did a good job with balancing his academic and athletic responsibilities. In fact, he was named the recipient of the Elite 89 award for the 2012 NCAA Division 1 Football National Championship. The award is presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade point average participating

while also playing Division 1 football,” Sprowls said.

“Chris Thompson played an especially important part in my academic success while at Sam,” he said. “She was always there to give career advice and to help me manage a demanding course load and practice schedule. Team physician and orthopedic

at the finals for each of the NCAA’s championships.

Following his graduation in 2011 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and a minor in health, Sprowls married fellow Bearkat Jessica Stephens and began medical school at the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine in Temple. They became parents of a baby boy, Keller, this February.

Sprowls is currently entering his fourth and final year of medical school. His next step is to be accepted into an orthopedic residency program and complete his medical training.

“I’m looking forward to

“The choice to pursue orthopedic surgery, was sort of a natural progression.”

growing in my faith, becoming a reliable and compassionate physician, and making memories with my wife and son as we continue to expand our family,” he said. “Eventually, we plan to set our feet where God takes us and establish ourselves within a community. We also plan to stay involved with the athletic program at SHSU for a long time to come.” ★

EYE ON KATS

2016 SHSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TAILGATES



The 2016 SHSU football season is fast approaching! The Alumni Association is proud to be a part of this honored tradition and look forward to you joining us in the excitement for both home and away games.

The Alumni Association provides food and beverages to alumni, students, and friends before each game to encourage a great Bearkat tailgate atmosphere.

For more information visit alumni.shsu.edu. **GO BEARKATS!**

2016 Bearkat Football Schedule

(Orange denotes home game)

*Sat., Sep. 3	OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE – ORANGE OUT GAME
*Sat., Sep. 17	@ Lamar (Beaumont, TX)
Sat., Sep. 24	@ Houston Baptist University (Houston, TX)
*Sat., Oct. 1	@ SFA – Battle of the Piney Woods (NRG Stadium)
*Sat., Oct. 8	@ Incarnate Word (San Antonio, TX)
*Sat., Oct. 15	ABILENE CHRISTIAN – HOMECOMING
Sat., Oct. 22	@ Nicholls (Thibodaux, LA)
*Sat., Oct. 29	TEXAS SOUTHERN – BEARKAT FAMILY WEEKEND
*Sat., Nov. 5	MCNEESE STATE – PINK OUT – YOUNG ALUMNI WEEKEND
Sat., Nov. 12	@ Northwestern State (Natchitoches, LA)
*Sat., Nov. 19	CENTRAL ARKANSAS

*Indicates Alumni Association pre-game tailgates





CARRY THE VISION

Multimillion-Dollar Partnership To Train Students For Success

It's no secret that students at Sam Houston State University are in a class all their own. Graduates are establishing the leadership ability, academic background and impeccable work ethic that make them valuable assets to the future workforce, as evidenced by the recent multimillion-dollar partnership established between SHSU's Department of Agricultural Sciences and Engineering Technology and Quanta Services.

The largest specialty contractor in North America, Quanta Services provides planning, design, construction, maintenance, and technology services for the electrical and oil and gas industries. Safely supporting the industrial construction and service industries, Quanta's core business focus is power—via transmission, distribution, substations, and power plants—and pipeline—as in utilities, oil and gas.

The Quanta Services partnership will touch the entire SHSU student's academic

experience by combining additional resources, hands-on experience, and industry-enhanced materials in core engineering technology courses, which will allow students to graduate from the program with an increased applied knowledge base and a better understanding of industrial and field operations.

Additional Resources

"Quanta Services will fund two additional professor positions that will work closely with Quanta managers to develop curriculum in energy systems management, during which engineering technology students will have actual hands-on working experience in a safe and controlled environment at Quanta's state-of-the-art power and pipeline training facility, Lazy Q Ranch, before they graduate," said Traci McCreedy, senior director for Alvarez and Marsal Business Consulting. "The partnership

will also fund several thousand dollars of supplemental lab equipment."

Hands-On Experience

This hands-on experience will come in the form of an industry-immersion experience unlike any other.

Beginning as a pilot in the spring 2017 semester, the Lazy Q Ranch student experience will provide a highly interactive case study for students enrolled in the minimester course by exposing them to the end-to-end process of managing a project in the field.

Built with the vision of the company's founder, John Colson, the one-of-a-kind Lazy Q Ranch facility encompasses more than 2,100 acres in La Grange and includes pressurized pipelines and testing facilities, a live substation, and transmission/distribution lines. The self-powered system enables a variety of training programs in a safe and contained environment.

In addition, the program will include the creation of a structured internship program beginning the following summer.

Enhanced Materials

To establish the curriculum for the program, Quanta Services collaborated with members of the SHSU faculty to enhance three core courses currently offered in the engineering technology department. The courses—two freshmen level and one upper level—have been enriched to increase exposure to the utilities industry and provide students

real-world connection to technical theory. "We asked Quanta Services and current mid-level managers to answer the question, "What makes a good candidate for employment?" said project manager Lindsay Kaub, adding that 52 competencies were identified in categories such as technical, role-based, cultural, and style.

"They narrowed the 52 competencies into 22 areas to focus on enhancing curriculum without altering the fundamental purpose of the courses."

The Results

Through the partnership, Quanta will have access to qualified applicants with the experience and skills necessary to be

successful upon their graduation from SHSU.

"The Quanta Services partnership with SHSU is a unique, multi-dimensional partnership that will enrich the academic course offerings in the engineering technology program with academically and scholarly recognized faculty committed to innovative research and enlighten advanced industry-driven course offerings," said agricultural sciences and engineering technology department chair Stanley Kelley.

"The work ethics and reputation of engineering technology students and graduates—coupled with a quality education and well-defined curriculum with a strict, structured, internship program—were key elements that heightened SHSU as the ideal academic partner for Quanta Services."

HE·RO

(hē' rō)

noun

1. An ordinary individual making a difference in the life of a student:

"a Hero made my scholarship possible"

synonyms: Alumni, Friends, Parents, Faculty, Staff

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Traveling Bearkats

Explore with us...



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



Distinguished Alumni

Sam Houston State University alumni whose career achievements span the energy, entertainment and news industries and whose service to SHSU and their communities go above and beyond in epitomizing the university's motto will be recognized with the SHSU Distinguished Alumni and Service awards, respectively. Those who will be honored during the 44th annual Distinguished Alumni Gala on Oct. 14 include Distinguished Alumni Duke Austin and James Lopez, Distinguished Young Alumna Mia Gradney, and Service Award recipients Jerry Streater and Dr. Nan McRaven.



NEW YORK ALUMNI & FRIENDS TRIP

4 Days – 3 Nights
December 13 – 16, 2016

Highlights: Experience NYC during the holiday season. Includes round trip air and limo transportation, lodging at the Sheraton NY Times Square, Bearkat welcome reception on December 13 and reception and dinner at the '21' Club on December 14.

Travel By: SHSU Alumni Association

Double \$1,250*



SOUTH PACIFIC WONDERS

18 Days – 23 Meals
March 14 – 31, 2017

Highlights: Dinner cruise of Sydney Harbour, visit to a Canterbury farmyard to observe a sheep shearing demonstration, scenery of the New Zealand fjords on a cruise of Milford Sound, excursion to the Great Barrier Reef, City Tour of Sydney, explore New Zealand, Mount Cook, and more.

Travel By: Collette Vacations

Double \$6,999*



THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST'S COASTAL TRESURES

9 Days – 13 Meals
June 18 – 26, 2017

Highlights: Seattle, San Juan Islands, Friday Harbor, Victoria, Port Angeles, Olympic National Park, Hoh Rain Forest, Hurricane Ridge.

Travel By: Collette Vacations

Double \$3,999*



SPOTLIGHT ON BARCELONA

7 Days – 8 Meals
October 7 – 13, 2016

Highlights: Barcelona, pac Guell, La Sagrada Familia, Choice of Gothic Quarter & Cathedral or La Boqueria Open-air Market and Guell Palace, Penedes Wine Region, Cooking Class, winery tour & tasting.

Travel By: Collette Vacations

Double \$3,299*

Duke Austin Distinguished Alumni

As CEO and COO of Quanta Services, Earl "Duke" Austin manages his business in the same way he manages every aspect of his life—with integrity, humility and grace.

A 1992 recipient of a Bachelor of Business Administration in management degree, Austin served as president of North Houston Pole Line until it was acquired by Quanta Services in 2001.

He was named chief operating officer and president of Quanta's Electric Power and Natural Gas and Pipeline divisions because of his strong leadership abilities. In 2016, he was promoted to chief executive officer.

Austin has remained

an avid supporter of Sam Houston State University by contributing to numerous projects and programs and as a Life Member of the Alumni Association.

"For more than 25 years, Duke Austin has been an exemplary representative of Sam Houston State. He has typified SHSU's tradition of excellence and brought credit to the university by his personal accomplishments, professional achievements and selfless support," a nominator said.

He was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2000 and continued his battle with cancer for five years. Keeping faith, family and friends as the pillars in his life helped him conquer his battle, and he has been cancer free for more than 10 years.

In addition to his contributions to SHSU, Austin is actively involved in fundraising for projects at the John Cooper School in The Woodlands, is a member of the Young Presidents Organization, serves on the calf scramble committee for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, and is a board member of The Junior Achievement.

"Duke prefers to fly under the radar. He has contributed to numerous schools, charities and organizations, but rarely desires recognition," a nominator said. "He has risen to the pinnacle of the public corporate world and has done so with intelligence and integrity."

Austin has four children and lives in Houston with his wife, Sanette.



*Single room and triple room rates also available.

James Lopez Distinguished Alumni

Although he hasn't played football since his days as a wide receiver for the Bearkats, James Lopez has been scoring touchdowns in the entertainment industry for more than 20 years.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1991 as a first-generation

American to Peruvian parents. He landed his first job at Madonna's record label, Maverick Records, where he was able to enhance his skills. This opportunity led him to Atlantic Records, where he worked as senior director of marketing before being promoted to senior vice president of marketing.

He has played an instrumental role in developing and overseeing the marketing campaigns for many platinum artists, including T.I., Bruno Mars, Flo Rida, Sean Paul, and B.o.B.

"In my opinion, James has distinguished himself through personal and professional achievements and has brought honor and distinction to our university," a nominator said.

Lopez transitioned from music to film and joined Screen Gems, a division of Sony Pictures Entertainment, in 2010. In this position,



he oversaw some of the company's highest-grossing projects, such as "Think Like a Man," "Think Like A Man Too," and "The Wedding Ringer."

He was named one of 2013's the Imagen Foundation's Most Powerful and Influential Latinos in Entertainment for 2012, 2013 and 2014 and spoke as a featured guest at the Hollywood Black Film Festival. He also was featured in Ebony Magazine's Power 100 issue in 2014.

Lopez recently was named head of motion pictures for Will Packer Productions, where he is responsible for developing and overseeing production on all film projects through the company's first-look deal with Universal Pictures.

He currently lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Andrea, and children Hannah and Victoria.

Mia D. Gradney Outstanding Young Alumna

Whether she's reporting on hurricanes or Hollywood stars or suiting up local women for job interviews, Mia Gradney has dedicated her life to serving the city of Houston.

The three-time Emmy award-winning anchor/host, reporter, and producer graduated from Sam Houston State University in 1998 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in mass communication and a



concentration in radio and film and began her career as a writer and production assistant for the Debra Duncan Show at Houston's KTRK Channel 13 news station.

She spent 10 years as a lead anchor at KIAH in Houston, where she filed reports from Reliant Park in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina evacuees first arrived at the Astrodome. Weeks later, she documented the evacuations across Texas in response to Hurricane Rita.

Today, she is a news reporter with KHOU, where she keeps Houston informed

about the city. In her spare time, she is a volunteer with Dress for Success, an organization dedicated to providing low-income women with professional interview attire.

In 2003, she teamed up with a fellow volunteer to co-found Women of Wardrobe, the young professionals group designed to support Dress for Success.

In addition to her volunteer work, Gradney hosts a monthly movie night at Studio City Movie Grill in Houston's City Centre.



Jerry Streater Service Award

Being a public servant is much more than just a job to Jerry Streater—it is the essence of his being.

He graduated from SHSU in 1961 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree and, in 1972, began selling cars, kick starting what would become a very successful career in the automobile business. He is now part owner of Streater-Smith Nissan and Honda in Conroe.

Streater was elected to serve on the Conroe City Council for eight years, during which he served as chairman of the city's finance and personnel committees. He also served as vice-president of the Montgomery County Performing Arts Society and chairman of the board of the Lake Conroe Chamber of Commerce.

"Throughout his life, Jerry has demonstrated a sincere interest in and commitment to public service," a nominator said. "He has provided strong leadership as a business owner, in working with civic

organizations, as an elected member of city government, and through philanthropic activities."

Prior to enrolling at SHSU, Streater played baseball and football at Navarro College on a scholarship. When he moved to Huntsville, he gave up his favorite sport in order to work to pay for college.

Because of their love of Bearkat baseball, Streater and his wife, Sandra, established an endowment fund to provide scholarships for Bearkat baseball players.

"Jerry and his wife, Sandra, have been generous supporters of the university, including previous Capital Campaign efforts," one nominator said. "They are members of Saint James Episcopal Church, where he served as a member of the vestry, and he currently serves on the finance committee and the long-range planning committee."

Streater and his wife have four children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Dr. Nan McRaven Service Award

Each student who graduates from Sam Houston State University is ingrained with the school's motto, "The measure of a Life is its Service."

Dr. Nan McRaven is no exception, as she has worked tirelessly throughout her life to better the lives of others.

From her 13 years on the Austin Community College's Board of Trustees to her work uniting the breast cancer community in Austin, the 1973 graduate has exemplified



the values taught at SHSU.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in government, McRaven earned a Master of Public Affairs degree from the University of Texas at Austin and began her career in government service. She has worked for more than 25 years in media and public relations, government relations, strategic issues management, public policy development and advocacy, and fundraising.

"Nan has been a trustee at Austin Community College for more than 13 years,"

one nominator said. "She has helped lead the college through many changes and helped to make it one of the premier colleges in Texas."

She also worked with the Breast Cancer Project and the Breast Cancer Resource Center to bring representatives together to share information and best practices. Because of her hard work and dedication, she was appointed to the BCRC board, where for three years she helped to raise the group's visibility in the community.

She received her doctorate from the University of Texas in 2015.

"Nan was the president of our chapter of Alpha Chi Omega in the early 1970s," one nominator said. "She was a leader then and she continues to be a leader in many different organizations and causes. She is obviously an outstanding alumna of SHSU and has always represented the university in a positive manner." ★

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



ROGER SEIDERS

Roger Seiders made lifelong friends and received the foundation for what would become his professional acumen in SHSU's industrial arts program.

Originally a business major, Seiders found a home at SHSU after taking his first IA class and falling in with a group that included Fred Pirkle, GERAL FAUSS, Bill Stice, Ed Denison, and Bill Hand, most of whom also would become prolific inventors and businessmen.

"It was a really funny little group," the '69 and '73 graduate said. "We were all buddies right off the bat."

So close were they that following graduation, Cypress-Fairbanks's Forest Arnold relentlessly recruited them all to teach industrial arts. But as creative thinkers—who, even in college would bounce ideas off of each other—each began working on "side" projects.

Seiders's summer project was building custom fishing rods. When he couldn't find a good finish for his rods, he sought one out.

"I had taken a class on coatings and finishes at Sam Houston, so I had a little

background in knowing what coatings were out there," he said. "I stumbled into the right place at that time; it was not a common product."

He took the rod, with the new clear, flexible epoxy finish, to an international fishing show in Dallas. After making more than three times his salary in three days, and with a family of six to take care of, Seiders decided to give up teaching and go into the epoxy business; thus, Flex Coat Company, Inc., was born.

Thirty-nine years later, the company sells epoxy coating for fishing rods and lures, coating equipment, and rod wrappers. Seiders also patented a fishing rod guide-tying device.

"We supply the majority of all coatings in the U.S. for fishing rods," he said. "It's a good little business."

In the midst of his success, Seiders's children began following in their parents' footsteps, eventually leading to a boat business.

While testing out the merchandise with a favorite family hobby—fishing—Seiders and his sons began looking for a better cooler for their boat, but to no avail. So his sons followed one of their father's philosophies—"if you can't

find what you want, make it."

"I've always been really quick to jump on an idea; I started making prototype YETI Coolers by simply taking an existing cooler, like an Igloo, and putting a piece of plywood on top to make it stronger, so we could stand on it to look for redfish," he said. "The boys took the ball and ran with it."

The success of the two companies has allowed Seiders to stay involved with Flex Coat, while doing "as much hunting and fishing as I possibly can," he said.

"I really think hunting and fishing is a lifestyle for us. We call Flex Coat and YETI Coolers a lifestyle business; they're related to what we love," he said. "I always encourage people to get into things they love."

DR. TAREK SOURYAL

Dr. Tarek O. Souryal was watching the news when he saw a story about a man with diabetes who had died following a car accident after receiving the wrong injection.

"He was perfectly fine, but an experienced EMT accidentally gave him the wrong drug," the 1977 SHSU alumnus said. "He meant to give him sugar, which is innocuous, but he ended up giving him Lidocaine, which causes seizures, and the guy died."

A leading orthopedic surgeon who has practiced medicine for 33 years, Souryal thought to himself, if the dangerous drug had a colored hue to distinguish it as such, a life might have been spared.

"Medication errors are huge; they are the third leading cause of death in the U.S.; it's not so much giving the wrong medicine but

giving the wrong dose or at the wrong time," Souryal said. "We're all human and we all make mistakes, and, unfortunately, that mistake cost somebody a life."

So he went to work to make that happen, and after a three-to-five-year process, Souryal patented a method. Among the benefits is that everyone in an operating room can see that a dosage had been given when injected into an IV.

Bristol-Meyers Squibb, a leading pharmaceutical company, found the method extremely useful and licensed the patent to differentiate between two cancer drugs that had very similar names, one of which was very deadly.

"There were errors where the wrong drug was administered, so they licensed my patent so that they could give the more dangerous of the two drugs a color; they chose blue," he said.

In addition to his work as founder and medical director at the Texas Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Group, Souryal also has a second patent in the works that will harvest wind that is created by jet airplanes taking off and turn the wind energy created into electrical energy.

He recently stepped down as head physician for the Dallas Mavericks after 22 seasons and as president of the NBA Physicians Association; he hosts the "Inside Sports Medicine" show on ESPN 103.3 FM and is a consultant for such newspapers as the Boston Globe, LA Times and USA Today.



GERAL FAUSS

Sports have always been a big part of life for 1969 and 1972 graduate GERAL FAUSS.

A high school quarterback and an eventual junior high school sports coach, Fauss's enthusiasm was nothing less than "avid."

So in 1976, when the Cypress-Fairbanks High School football team had a rival game whose winner would take the lead in district, Fauss and his industrial arts students drafted signs to show their school spirit—a No. 1 hand with a clinched fist and a raised index finger, drawn with a black marker on white poster board and cut out with an X-acto knife.

The team lost, but the novelty became a winner.

The next year, as the University of Texas was set to face Notre Dame in the Cotton Bowl, Fauss decided to see if he could capitalize on the idea.

"It was a natural, No. 1 hands for the No. 1-ranked team," he said.

He made 200 No. 1 hands and 200 Hook 'Em Horns hands—this time from Masonite—and set out for Dallas, where a deal was reached that allowed him to sell the product for a commission fee. By kickoff, they were all sold.

After a series of trials-and-error in perfecting the hands, Fauss was ready to resign his teaching position by 1979 and put the revenue from his sales into a business.

"I had to educate myself in screen printing, die-cutting and marketing. Business was not my major, so it was all new to me," Fauss said. "The first hands were made in my garage, which I knew could not last. My dad had an old metal building behind his house that had once housed his sheet metal business. It was full of junk and cats, but I managed to carve



out an area inside to set up shop."

Today, Spirit Industries, Inc., still a family-run business, can produce 36,000 hands per day. The smallest hand he's ever produced is 3 inches tall; the largest, 17 feet and 6 inches. A foam hand from the 1983 Super Bowl even hangs in the NFL Hall of Fame.

Fauss attributes some of his success to his education and friends at SHSU, where he also met his wife of 40 years.

"Having a strong competitive spirit probably inspired me to make a tangible symbol that we could all relate to," he said. "Industrial arts training at SHSU led all of the students to focus on a product or problem and then 'make' or figure out a solution.

"The skills learned in my classes added to the network of mentors and friends and provided the base I needed to build my life on." ★

CLASS NOTES

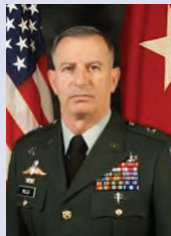
Carl Owens, '68, was inducted into the Texas Basketball Hall of Fame in May. Photographed with Owens (from left) are former teammates **Bill Mehrens, '68**, and **Mike Smith, '68**, who was inducted in 2015.



On June 2, Alvin ISD broke ground on its 17th elementary school, named Shirley Dill Brothers Elementary in honor of **Shirley Dill Brothers, '71**. Brothers retired from Alvin ISD in 2012 after 40 years of service, 15 of which she served as a special education teacher and 25 of which she served as the district's first director of communications.

Gary Fickes, '72, is the county commissioner for Tarrant County.

Judge Albert M. McCaig Jr., '72, and **Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Richard W. Mills, '74**, were among the first group inducted into the U.S. Army National ROTC Hall of Fame in June. The Hall of Fame honors graduates of the Army ROTC who have distinguished themselves in military or civilian pursuits. The ceremony was held in Fort Knox, Kentucky, in connection with the U.S. Army Cadet Command 100th Anniversary.



Joop DeJonge, '74, is retired from the Washington State Department of Corrections. DeJonge began his career as a correctional officer and worked in many capacities prior to his retirement as the prison superintendent.

Lynn Redden, '75, is the superintendent of schools for Onalaska ISD. Redden is married to **Laura Lorfing Redden, '87**.

Terry Allen, '79, was the chief juvenile probation officer in Tyler County for 24 years. She has been married for 39 years to Kenneth Allen, Texas A&M class of '77, and they have three daughters: **Amee Allen Gately, '02**; Kemea

Allen; and Jenifer Allen Canter. A Tyler County Citizen of the Year, she is serves in leadership positions for several professional boards and for the Tyler County child welfare board.

In March, **Charles "Chuck" Jones, '81**, began leading SunTrust Bank's RV/Marine Lending, in addition to his role as head of dealer financial services (indirect auto), in Atlanta. Jones and wife Debbie hosted the top 32 dealership winners at a SunTrust Bank Indirect Auto Dealer event in New York City. On June 6, Jones participated in a "Night at Orioles Field" at Camden Yards in Baltimore with the top customers of SunTrust Bank's RV/Marine Group.

Jeff Powell, '85, is chief executive officer and president of Razzoo's, Inc., which is headquartered in Addison. Privately held Razzoo's owns and operates 21 casual dining restaurants, serving Cajun and Gulf Coast cuisine. Powell was an initial founder and investor when Razzoo's Cajun Café opened in North Dallas in 1991.



Josh Bond, '94, appears in a supporting role in the upcoming independent film "All the Birds Have Flown South," starring Joey Lauren Adams and Dallas Roberts, which premiered at the Seattle International Film Festival in June. Bond also is head of the publications division for Arkansas Graphics, Inc. He previously worked in promotions at radio stations in Austin and at Fox and NBC affiliates. Bond has appeared in a "Don't Mess with Texas Commercial" and in un-credited roles in "Office Space" and "The New Guy."

Jodi Duncan-Lundquist, '94, is currently employed as an operations analyst with Houston International Insurance Group.

Christie McWilliams, '95 & '00, and her husband welcomed their second child, a son, in July. McWilliams also recently accepted the gifted consultant position for Oakland County ISD in Michigan.

A successful high school English teacher for 18 years, **Brenda Black, '97**, currently teaches

in Onalaska ISD. Black credits SHSU for preparing her for her career, which includes mentoring new teachers. She currently has a granddaughter (class of 2018) following in her footsteps at SHSU.

Michael Sparks, '01 & '07, is currently the senior vice president for 1st National Bank in Conroe. Sparks has been married for 12 years and has three children.

Chad Baker, '06, and wife **Hillary Bennett-Baker, '05**, announce the birth of their third daughter, Beatrice Eleanor Kathleen Baker, born on Jan. 6.

Paige Japhet, '06, and her husband, Jeff, own Japhet Builders in San Antonio, through which they have built more than a dozen homes for disabled veterans who had difficulty finding a builder who could accommodate their special needs.

As the lead chemical technologist for process phase separations at GE Power and Water in The Woodlands, **Karl Kuklenz, '07 & '09**, has been involved with a group that has created three patents on compositions and methods for breaking water-in-crude oil emulsions. Kuklenz met his wife **Audrey Kuklenz, '09**, at SHSU. SHSU also gave him a better appreciation for community and for the diverse cultures of other scholars.



Scott Saunders Jr., '08, recently was elected mayor of the city of Smithville after serving two terms on its city council. He is a firefighter of five years and is married to **Leah Stump, '09**. They have one daughter and another on the way. Saunders also is a Mason and a Lions Club member.

Valeria Nappier, '09, was nominated to have Texas teachers come into her classroom to record her teaching. Portions of the recording will be used to train teachers all over Texas who are going through the Texas Teachers Alternative Certification Program, potentially impacting numerous teachers and students across the state.

Patricia Porter, '10, is currently working as a billing specialist in Houston for a construction supply company.

Amber Samuel, '10, is an elementary teacher and a writer, whose blog, peppermint-sunshine.com, showcases her various stories.

Suzanna Hernandez Bachman, '11, married Trevor Bachman in February. Fellow Bearkat alumna **Lindsay Vinyard, '11**, with Make Moments Last photography, captured all of the special moments.

Ashley Tucker-Johnson, '12, will be teaching seventh grade math at Cinco Ranch Junior High in Katy ISD. She married **Nicholas Johnson, '11**, and they have a daughter who is "absolutely perfect" and a future Bearkat.

Rebecca Cansler, '13, received her master's degree in criminology from the University of Houston-Clear Lake in May and has begun working as a juvenile supervision officer with

Harris County Juvenile Probation. She and her fiancé Robert, an SFA alumnus, plan to marry as early as next spring.

Lauren Haywood Graham, '13, is a loan officer for Texas Credit in Pleasanton, where she helps finance farms, ranches, and rural lifestyles, helping to keep agriculture alive in Texas. Graham and her husband also welcomed their first child in July 2016.

Miranda Landsman, '13, is currently a reporter for the Regional News Network in New York City after previously working as an anchor/reporter in Corpus Christi. Her younger sister Sarah graduated from SHSU in August and her younger brother Anthony started his first semester at SHSU in January.

Weldon Whitt, '13, is currently the vice president of commercial lending at Plains State Bank in Conroe.

Doug Champion, '14, recently opened Crossfit Hville to highlight the benefits of a healthy

lifestyle within the Huntsville community. Champion thanks agricultural business professors Wolfskill and Mills for giving him the tools and "know how" to run a business and become an entrepreneur.

Hunter Pirtle, '15, started his professional career three days after graduating in December as an adult probation officer in Brazoria County.

Patrick Vollmer, '15, has been accepted into the fall class at the University of St. Thomas School of Law.

Lauryn Lueken, '16, gained employment with the Walt Disney Company at the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida, where she works in the cast activities, events and recognition department as a special events coordinator, planning events and activities for Disney's 70,000 Florida-based employees.



ALUMNI LOOK



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IN MEMORIAM

Mattie Sue (Pickett) Leigh '37
 Ruby (Hogue) Buckner '38
 Jane Evelyn (Strowbridge) Fraser '40
 John Henry Archer '42
 Natalie Gene (Moskowitz) Ornish '43
 Ruby (Brand) Pipes '44
 Sybil O'Bera (Heath) Vick '46
 Mary Jo (Lane) Darden '46
 Ira Eldon Black '47
 Carl Donald Lively '47
 Mary Winifred (Corley) Grivich '48
 Vernalea (Miller) Pickering '48
 Kathleen Ann (Garrett) Cornelius '48
 Thomas Foster Young '49
 Rosemary Ruth (Dietz) Tittle '49
 Robert B. Boley '49
 James Lanier Gibson '49
 Leslie Joan Roper '50
 John Calvin Austin '50
 Acie Carol Barfield '51
 William Oliver Weygandt '51
 Mary Lou (Goines) Danheim '51
 Mary Anne (Slatter) Byrum-Bullard '51
 Robert Francis Dunn '51
 Robert Arthur Carter '51
 Amelia (McClosky) Imhoff '51
 Jim Iverson Hunt '51
 Frances Ann (Court) Lamb '52
 Zelig Harris Sokoll '52
 Mary Helen (Holmes) Dickerson '52

Jeff Evan Larrison '54
 John Barnett Lown '55
 Joe Tom Haney '55
 Betty Jean Glover '55
 Otis S. Crittenden '56
 James Hoyt Bowers '57
 Harold Gene Harrington '58
 Justine (Calfee) Deison '58
 Artie Gray (Wilson) Norman '59
 Ezem Gillian Scarborough '59
 Larry Storrs '59
 William Leon Burkham '59
 Diane N. (Kunz) Holland '60
 Robert Roy Hazelwood '60
 Lavelle (Rothwell) Shelton '60
 Cova (Galloway) Smither '60
 Frank David Burns '61
 Michael Anthony Fassino '61
 Hal Lamond Toole '61
 Roy Paul Long '61
 Michael David Chennault '61
 Robert Bentley Abshire '62
 William E. Demouche '62
 Kervin Roy Sellers '62
 Richard Leo White '62
 Lloyd M. Klaus '63
 Ronald Bruce Alexander '63
 Jack Arlen Allen '63
 Robert Milton McGill '64

Dorothy Geneva (Steely) Neathery '64
 Douglas Wayne Evans '64
 Robert McLean Wickersham '64
 Olan Alford Tomme '65
 Donald Owen Thornton '66
 George Alfred Donaghe '66
 Lewis Henry Gaines '66
 Jerry Smith Brannen '68
 Tommye Lou (Dawson) Phillips '68
 Robert Garrett Smith '69
 Nancy A. (Bemus) Coles '69
 Shirley Anna (Carle) Suneson '69
 Mary Eugenia (Calhoun) Brown '69
 Lula Jane (Dunderdale) Rogers '70
 Julia E. Satterwhite '70
 David Richard Hahn '70
 Robert Arthur Turner '71
 Joi Michelle Sudela '71
 Carolyann (Gless) Lankford '71
 Robert Hugh Greenleaf '71
 Beryl Lea (Mathews) Bishop '71
 Norman David Jarrell '72
 William Thomas Pack '72
 William Harrison McQuay '72
 Norman Ray Payne '72
 Coy Alan Clark '73
 Daniel Aaron Bear '73
 Harold Perez Garza '73
 Daniel Sanchez '74
 Perry Mose Cox '74

Otha (Lane) McPhail '74
 Bettie Jean (Dews) Barnhart '74
 Terry Sprott Wood '74
 Theodore Edwin Marr '75
 Nancy (Sackenreuther) Urban '75
 Brian Peter Woodward '76
 Carlos Ruiz '76
 Susan Louise (McCarley) McCracken '76
 William Bernard Kahn '77
 Imogene (Harrison) Rouse '78
 Mario Alberto Ballesteros '78
 Tanya L. (Smith) Holmes '78
 Don Ray Hill '80
 Kim Y. (Elzy) Randolph '82
 Donald Ellis Sellars '83
 Lysbeth (Kaye) Stone '83
 Pepper Darnell De Roulac '83
 Craig Thomas Hutchinson '84
 Olivia Ann (Davis) Fitzgerald '85
 Vernessa (Spencer) Tracy '85
 Michael Dean Potter '89
 Kandy Elisa Elmore '90
 Martin Ross Williams '90
 Claude Wayne Brittian '90
 Amy Lynn (Gibson) Wooten '91
 Olan Earl Penner '95
 Michelle Ann (Vierus) Garcia '01
 Jason Glenn Schwarz '09

IN REMEMBRANCE – PAUL RUFFIN

A celebration of the life of Paul Ruffin—2009 Texas State Poet Laureate, Texas State University System Regents' Professor and SHSU Distinguished Professor of English—was held in the Evans Complex on campus in April, following his death at the age of 74.

An award-winning, well-known and respected editor, publisher, writer and poet, Ruffin often relied upon his experiences growing up in the South as inspiration for his stories.

Shortly after he came to SHSU in the mid-'70s, he founded *The Texas Review*—an international literary journal—and Texas Review Press, a member of the Texas A&M University Press Consortium. Throughout the years, Ruffin worked tirelessly to promote the press and its authors.

"Paul's impact on creative writing at SHSU was indeed profound," said Bill Bridges, former chair of the SHSU Department of English. "The work he did

in building *The Texas Review* and Texas Review Press into a premier journal and university press was substantial."

During Ruffin's extensive writing career, he published more than 1,500 poems, 100-plus stories, and more than 90 essays in magazines and journals. His work also has appeared in numerous anthologies and textbooks. In addition, he wrote a weekly column that appeared in several newspapers in Texas and Mississippi.

In a 2009 article in SHSU's *Heritage Magazine*, Ruffin was described as someone who "loves football, shooting, riding his tractor, maintaining his truck,



and doing his own carpentry, electric, and plumbing work ... not exactly the stereotypical image of a person who loves words and is a master of arranging them into beautifully crafted poems and other literary works."

Ruffin is survived by his wife Amber and his three children.

Fred Pirkle Engineering Technology Center Naming Opportunities

Some gifts don't last a lifetime—they last for generations. Be a part of this exciting opportunity to build on Fred Pirkle's vision for Sam Houston and America's workforce.

Naming Opportunity	Amount
Endowed Department	\$5 million
Endowed Chairs	\$3 million
Agricultural Sciences Department	
Engineering Technology Department	
Endowed Professorship	\$1 million
AG Business	
AG Communications	
AG Education	
AG Engineering Technology	
Animal Science	
Civil Engineering	
Design & Development	
Engineering Technology	
Safety Management	
Electronics	
Equine Science	
Plant & Soil Sciences	
Wildlife Management	
Academic Space	
Energy Systems Sustainability Lab	\$1 million
Innovations Suite	\$1 million
ETEC Manufacturing Lab	\$100,000
Electronics & Robotics Lab II	\$100,000
CAD Labs (2)	\$50,000/each
Floral Design Lab	\$50,000
AG Com Media Center	\$30,000
AGET Tractor Lab (Harrell Center)	\$30,000
AGET Classroom (Harrell Center)	\$25,000
Floral Display Area	\$10,000
Wet Lab	\$10,000
CAD Print/Plot Tech Area	\$5,000
Animal Science Prep Lab	\$5,000
Clean Manufacturing Area (2)	\$5,000/each
Administrative/Office Space	
Lobby/Common Area	\$250,000
Department Chair's Suite	\$250,000
Engineering Technology Chair's Office	\$25,000
Associate Chair Office II	\$15,000
Faculty Workroom	\$5,000
Innovations Lab Tech Office I	\$5,000
Faculty Office (28)	\$5,000/each
Staff Office (4)	\$5,000/each

Naming Opportunity	Amount
Engineering Technology Center	\$25 million
Academic Space	
Electronic & Robotics Lab I	\$100,000
AGED Student/Teacher Classroom	\$50,000
AG/Com Seminar Room	\$50,000
AGET Fabrication Lab (Harrell Center)	\$30,000
Wind Tunnel Lab	\$25,000
Alternative Energy Terrace	\$25,000
Multipurpose Classroom (3)	\$25,000/each
Animal Science Physiology Classroom (2)	\$25,000/each
Animal Science Research Lab	\$25,000
Photo Gallery (2)	\$12,500/each
AGED Multimedia Room	\$10,000
AGED Student Tutorial/Counseling Room	\$10,000
AGED Curriculum/Resources Room	\$10,000
Administrative Space	
Faculty Seminar Room	\$75,000
Chair's Conference Room	\$50,000
Agricultural Sciences Chair's Office	\$25,000
Student Lounge	\$25,000
Faculty Lounge/Meeting Room	\$20,000
Associate Chair Office I (Agriculture)	\$15,000
Faculty Office – Rodeo Coach	\$5,000
Faculty Offices Suite (Harrell Center)	\$5,000
Innovations Lab Directors Office	\$5,000



For more information on endowments or scholarships, visit shsu.edu/giving or contact Thelma Mooney, Associate VP Development 936.294.4047

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